FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 MAY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

"Informed shipping sources" in London cited by INA confirmed that two tankers were hit by missiles in the Iraqi air attack south of Khark Island on the night of 13 May. One, an Iranian tanker, was carrying oil from the island while the other, a Greek vessel, was on its way to the Khark oil terminal. Further south, another Kuwaiti oil tanker was damaged in a bomb attack by an unidentified aircraft on 14 May, the chairman of the Kuwaiti Oil Tanker Company announced in a statement reported by KUNA. No one was killed, but a bomb blew a hole in the ship's side, he disclosed. Iraq's information minister disclaimed responsibility for the incident, asserting in a statement reported by INA that his country's Air Force and Navy had carried out no activity in the Gulf since midnight on 13 May. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti tanker damaged in a previous attack by an unidentified aircraft was repaired in Bahrain and is scheduled to resume its voyage to Britain, KUNA noted.

Jewish Conference in Morocco

The Syrian Foreign Ministry recalled its ambassador to Morocco for "consultations" following a recent Jewish conference in Rabat in which Israel is participating at the official invitation of the Moroccan Government, Damascus radio announced. By hosting this conference, Morocco "disavows" the blood of Arab "martyrs" and ignores Arab summit, ICO, and Jerusalem Committee resolutions, the radio asserted, adding that Syria views this "grave step" with "extreme concern." Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali described the conference as a positive step that will help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, according to Radio Monte Carlo. An editorial in the Jordanian newspaper *AR-RA'Y* reported by Amman radio welcomed "dialogue among religions" as a "noble means" to achieve understanding. However, it accused the conference of deviating from this objective, turning into a "Zionist action" aimed at "dealing unilaterally" with Morocco.

Lebanon

The ministerial committee established to formulate a Cabinet policy statement reached full agreement on the government's objectives and will submit its draft statement to the Cabinet for approval, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who chaired the meeting, said afterward in remarks broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio that the committee had reached "unanimous and complete agreement on every point and every word" in its statement.

Karami also apologized to the people for the continuing violence in the capital, promising that measures will be taken to achieve security. The prime minister's apology followed further shelling across the contact lines which killed 2 children and wounded 20 others at a school in East Beirut, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. A spokesman for the Lebanese Forces announced in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that his side had abided by the cease-fire but would henceforth "violently respond" to any shelling. Meanwhile, an Amal Movement statement carried by Beirut radio stressed Amal's full commitment to the cease-fire and called on the Lebanese Army to stabilize the security situation.

In the east the Syrians have redeployed in positions south of the Beirut-Damascus Highway which they evacuated last winter and also reinforced their lines in the Al-Biqa' valley with rocket launchers and heavy artillery, according to Jerusalem and Voice of Lebanon radios.

Libya

The 13 "terrorist agents" killed or captured in Tripoli recently were recruited by U.S. intelligence from the Muslim Brotherhood to assassinate Libyan officials, foreign diplomats, and other foreigners and to destroy "vital economic establishments," according to a statement issued by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and broadcast by Tripoli radio. The statement alleged that the members of the group were trained in Sudan by U.S., British, and Sudanese officers and denied that the group attacked Bab al-'Aziziyah, where Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters is located. The statement accused the United States, Britain, the FRG, Sudan, and other countries of "protecting" those responsible for the events in Tripoli. In a related development, the authorities captured another member of the "terrorist group," according to Tripoli radio.

Meanwhile, the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) again denied that any Arab or non-Arab party other than the NFSL was involved in the Tripoli operation, according to an NFSL statement reported by SUNA. The statement charged that by means of these allegations Al-Qadhdhafi sought to play down the size and capabilities of the Libyan opposition and to justify the "crimes and conspiracies" which he intended to carry out in "the near future" against Sudan, Tunisia, and Egypt.

PLO Affairs

The deputy leaders of the PFLP, DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party arrived in Algiers on 13 May to continue the intra-Palestinian dialogue, APS reported. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio chided the PFLP and DFLP for delaying talks with Fatah officials in Algiers, asserting that it is time for "some Palestinian sides to grow up."

Damascus radio's "Palestine broadcast" reacted to further reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will transfer his headquarters to Cairo by asserting that, whatever steps 'Arafat takes, it is an established fact that he has "deviated" from the Palestinian people and joined the opponents of the Palestinian revolution.

FBIS

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Palestinian Delegations Arrive in Algiers

LD141433 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 14/05/84 (APS) — Three Palestinian delegations arrived Sunday in Algiers to take part in the inter-Palestinian dialogue. The delegation of the Popular Front for Palestine Liberation (PFPL) was led by Abu Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general. The delegation of the Democratic Front for Palestine Liberation (DFPL) was headed by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy secretary general. As for the delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party, it was led by Sulayman Nedjab, also deputy secretary general. The three delegations were greeted by Mr Sadek Zoutin, member of the Permanent Secretariat (external relations).

Opening of Talks

LD151130 Algiers APS in English 1042 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 15/05/84 (APS) — The works of the inter-Palestinian meeting of Algiers started on Monday afternoon, gathering the deputy commander of the Palestinian Armed Forces, Abu Jihad, Abu 'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for Palestine Liberation (PFPL), Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy secretary general of the Democratic Front for Palestine Liberation (DFPL) and Sulayman Nedjab, deputy secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party. The delegation was later audienced by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, responsible of [as received] the C.C. Permanent Secretariat. The latest developments on the Palestinian and Arab scene were at the center of the talk.

Voice of PLO on Delay of Intra-Palestinian Talks

JN142007 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Algiers intra-Palestinian dialogue should have been held on 9 May. However, the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] asked Fatah to agree to a 2-3 day postponement. Fatah agreed, despite its dissatisfaction with this stalling which should not have been a problem had there been good intentions. The meeting was then scheduled for 12 May. However, the meeting did not take place, and for the same reasons. Fatah did not want national interests to be affected by trifles. It did not raise the issue of the delay until many thought that the meeting was already in session. As of this morning, the sides to this intra-Palestinian dialogue have not met in Algiers. The reason: PFLP and DFLP representatives have not arrived in the Algerian capital. Let us hope that something good will come out of this delay.

Four days ago Brothers Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] held a news conference in Tunis in which they answered many questions on the Palestinian issue. On the intra-Palestinian dialogue, they said that the second Algiers meeting will be held on 12 May. Fatah was certainly not seeking to rush the two parties. Fatah immediately accepted a postponement. Fatah was expressing its deep concern that an uninterrupted dialogue be held and that results be reached that would certainly serve our people's struggle and cause.

Abu Jihad and Abu Iyad said in the same news conference that the second Algiers meeting will reach a formula that will bring good news to the Palestinians, Arabs, and friends concerning Palestinian national unity. In this statement, Fatah expressed its sincere intentions and its great efforts in this field. Fatah was expressing its desire to offer all possible concessions in order to overcome the obstacles that may hinder this great Palestinian goal.

Fatah waited. It named its delegation without delusions, and entrusted it to convey its sincere desires and determination to exert every effort in order to make the meeting a success. This delegation packed its bags and prepared to leave. Perhaps the PFLP and DFLP delegations have arrived in Algiers from Damascus by this evening. However, the two delegations have not arrived as of filing time. When we were little children, we used to walk in the Palestinian and Arab fields and pick daisies of various colors. We used to pluck the petals one by one, saying: She loves me, she loves me not; or, he loves me, he loves me not. It would be good if we were boys and girls and we were plucking daisies. However, we cannot hold a daisy and say: The PFLP and DFLP will come, the PFLP and DFLP will not leave Damascus, or words to that effect. It is time for some Palestinian sides to grow up. The issue is connected with the martyrs, with the suffering of a people who have made great sacrifices, and with a problem that is related to a widely experienced march of revolutionary struggle. That is enough. Let us be on the level which our people want our men to reach.

PLO Official Discusses 'Arafat's Asian Tour

LD141416 Kuwait KUNA in English 1116 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 (KUNA) — The Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Japan, Bakr [first name as received] 'Abd al-Mun'im explained to KUNA the importance of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Asian tour, Japan's role in the Middle East, U.S. antagonism, and other issues. Bakr, who accompanied 'Arafat on his visit early this month to China and North Korea, described it as another historic milestone. The reception was extremely warm and cordial, while the talks with leaders of the two nations were very important and were held in a friendly atmosphere. In reply to a question on Japan's role with regard to the national rights of the Palestinian people, Bakr said: "Despite the fact that Japan does not fully recognize the PLO office here, the Tokyo office enjoys practically all privileges of other embassies, be it in relation to the government, political parties, popular organizations, or parliament members, in addition to the intelligensia, namely writers, journalists, artists, and others."

Regarding Japan's policy in the Mideast, Bakr said this country has interest in finding a solution to the Middle East issue, particularly the Palestinian cause, for several reasons in view of the fact that the region is of vital importance to the Japanese economy, especially the oil. Japan imports more than 70 percent of its needs from the Mideast.

In addition to Japan's total dependence on oil as one of the major industrailly-advanced nations, it considers the Mideast a large market for various Japanese products, he added.

On the other hand, he also explained, Japan began abandoning its isolation in the international sphere and councils 10 years ago and began showing interest in several political issues, including the Middle East problem.

Another important role Japan assumed recently, he said, was its participation in the annual industrial nations summit, which began taking some advanced stances toward the rights of the Palestinian people, although they still do not meet the expectations of the Palestinian people toward its just rights.

On the question of Japan-U.S. relations, the PLO representative said: "Japan has close ties with the United States, and although we as Palestinians do not attach hopes to changing the American stance,which is entirely favoring Israel and basically supporting and financing the Zionist entity, we think that Japan, out of its basic interest that there will be peace in the Mideast, may be able to influence the U.S. stand, even though partially, on some issues related to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, on top of which is the right of self-determination."

"Japan had tried several times through political talks with the U.S. to positively influence the American stance, but the American position has been obstinate and arrogant."

"We Palestinians know fully well who are our enemies and who are our friends," the Palestinian diplomat said, adding, "Zionism and imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism, is on top of the list of the enemy camp and we do not live on the illusion of changing the position of the American Administration in a way which meets the expectations of our people."

Asked about 'Arafat's visit to China, Bakr said: During Chairman 'Arafat's trip to Beijing, China informed the PLO leader of the results of talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Beijing, the conclusion of which confirms what he said earlier, that the U.S. still adopts an antagonistic stand to the rights of the Palestinian people. We were not surprised with this as we know the [word indistinct] of the United States.

Commenting on the recent trip to Washington of Yoshio Hatano, director general of the Middle East and African Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry and his talks there recently, Bakr said, "I understand that Hatano met top American officials of the State Department in charge of the Middle East as part of the annual meetings between the two countries, but the U.S. did not change its attitude on the Palestinian question.

"It should be fully realized that any solution in the Mideast cannot succeed unless two requirements are met fairly and squarely:

(1) Recognition of the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and the establishment of astate in their homeland, with their capital in Jerusalem; (2) recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," Bakr emphasized.

As-Sa'iqah Leader Cables Support to Al-Qadhdhafi
JN141940 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 May (SANA) — Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguard Organization-As-Sa'iqah, has affirmed that the plotting and the armed attack on Bab Al-'Aziziyah Barracks in Libya — which was carried out by hired agents of the CIA, Zionism, and Arab reaction represented by the Muslim Brotherhood gangs — must be widely condemned by all sectors of our Arab nation's masses, from the ocean to the Gulf.

In a cable to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, Comrade al-Qadi said that As-Sa'iqah considers the 1 September Revolution under the leadership of Col al-Qadhdhafi as one of the main pillars of Arab steadfastness against the imperialist and Zionist plots to dominate the Arab region.

Palestinian Groups Criticize Rabat Conference
JN141900 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Damascus — Palestinian organizations have strongly condemned the convening of a Jewish conference in Rabat, in which a number of Zionist enemy leaders are participating. They firmly denounced King Hassan II's reception of the Zionist delegation to the conference and described this step as a serious precedence in deviating from the Arab consensus, a stab in the back of Arab strugglers, and an attempt to normalize Arab-Zionist relations and end the Arab-Zionist dispute.

The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has condemned the convening of the Jewish conference in the Moroccan capital. It expressed its strong resentment and grave concern over this step, which represents a serious capitulatory line that will gravely harm our Palestinian cause. The Front urged all Arab forces and nationalist regimes to take a firm stand toward the serious move which the Moroccan regime is planning.

The Popular Liberation War Vanguard Organization-As-Sa'iqah Forces consider the convening of the Jewish conference a desecration of Arab and Islamic soil. It said that this conference serves world Zionism and is an insult to the Arab homeland and the Islamic world.

The PFLP-GC condemns the Jewish conference in Morocco and King Hassan II's reception of the Zionist delegation to the conference. The Front urged Arab liberation forces to counter this treasonous step. An official spokesman of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Joint Command said that the official Moroccan authorities' open welcome for an Israeli delegation is a qualitative step forward for the Moroccan regime's suspect role in leading moves to recognize the Zionist entity.

The reception is also part of the peddling of U.S. plans, led by the Reagan plan and the Camp David agreements. It is noteworthy that the Jewish conference began its work in Rabat yesterday.

Dissident Movement Condemns Conference

JN150739 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Fatah's uprising movement has condemned the Moroccan regime's decision to hold the Moroccan Jews' conference in the presence of a Zionist delegation on the soil of Arab Morocco. It said that convening such a conference comes as part of the suspect schemes against the Palestine question and the Arab nation's issues. Fatah's uprising movement stressed that this step aims at attenuating the Arab-Zionist conflict at the expense of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. It added that this conference comes at the same time as Yasir 'Arafat has announced on more than one occasion, and in more than one place, that he is ready to recognize the Zionist enemy and negotiate with it. It indicated that the toppling of the 17 May agreement in Lebanon, which was made possible by the Arab confrontation will, represented by Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese nationalist forces, demands that these forces should strongly confront this step by the Moroccan regime.

Faruq Qaddumi Meets Bulgarian Envoy in Tunis

JN121818 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met in Tunis yesterday with the Bulgarian ambassador in Tunis. They discussed recent developments concerning the Palestinian question and the situation in the Arab region in general. Brother Abu al-Lutf acquainted the Bulgarian ambassador with the PLO's efforts to convene an international conference, with the participation of all the parties concerned, as a framework for finding a just solution to the Palestinian question and implementing the Geneva resolutions regarding Palestine. The agency added [as heard] that the Bulgarian ambassador reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle under their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO. The ambassador informed Brother Abu al-Lutf of Bulgaria's decision to grant the PLO 25 scholarships and another 25 for her studies. [sentence as heard]

PLF Leadership Holds Meetings in Bulgaria

GF140746 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] WAFA has learned that the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] held a series of meetings in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, attended by all the members of the Front's General Secretariat and a number of the members of the Front's Political Bureau and Central Committee, for the purpose of discussing a number of internal issues and national Palestinian action.

Both Algeria and the PDRY paved the way for holding these meetings which were concluded on 10 May. Comrade 'Ali Ishaq, secretary of the PLF Central Committee, at the end of the meetings said the following: In Sofia, from 7-10 May 1984, the PLF leadership held a session of meetings in which it discussed various political developments in the Arab and international arenas and organizational questions, and passed on them a number of decisions. The Front's leadership, during its discussions and in its decisions, affirmed the determination to continue the struggle for the unity of the PLO and its institutions, and expressed adherence to the documents of the Front and the decisions of its various leading organs, which call for defending the revolution and the PLO against all attempts to liquidate or contain the organization [PLO].

The PLF leadership emphasized all the slogans which are aimed at eliminating all forms of interference in the internal affairs of the PLO for the purpose of undermining the independence of its decision and its right to represent the Palestinian people. It also condemned all forms of blocs, axes, and divisions inside the PLO. The Front's leadership called for continuing the national dialogue in the direction of consolidating the unity of the organization and developing its institutions for the benefit of the national course and the entire national Palestinian movement. On the organizational level, the Front's leadership passed during its meetings a number of decisions that are aimed at ensuring the regular functioning of the Front's various institutions and leading organs, including the Central Committee and the Political Bureau.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: PLO Official Arrives in Amman

JN150903 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 15 May 84 p 24

[Text] Amman —'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary of the Arab Liberation Front and PLO Executive Committee member, arrived in Amman yesterday after concluding a working visit, with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, to the PRC and the DPRK.

Military Operation in South Lebanon Reported

JN131720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The joint Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist resistance men resumed their heroic and daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon. A group of the Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist resistance men has attacked a Zionist military patrol on a road in the town of Ma'rakah in the District of Tyre in southern Lebanon. The attack, which was carred out with machine guns and hand grenades, resulted in direct hits on the patrol and wounded or killed several Zionist soldiers. A Zionist spokesman admitted the attack and claimed that it resulted in no casualties among his forces. He added that the Israeli forces launched a large-scale campaign in the area in search of the resistance men who withdrew safely. The Israeli forces launched a large-scale arrest campaign against the citizens on the pretext of interrogating them.

2 More Operations Reported

JN141804 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The heroic operations of the resistance men of the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces against the Zionist forces of invasion

in southern Lebanon are escalating. The resistance men carried out two daring operations against two Zionist patrols at dawn yesterday. In the first operation, the resistance fighters used machine guns and rockets to attack a Zionist military patrol on a road south of Sidon. The attack destroyed one of the patrol's vehicles and killed or wounded a number of Zionist soldiers. In the second operation, the joint Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist forces planted remote-controlled explosive charges on a road west of Jazzin. The explosion destroyed one vehicle in the Zionist patrol, and killed or wounded its occupants. A spokesman for the Zionist invasion forces admitted the two operations, but failed to reveal Zionist losses. He said that the Israeli forces reinforced their units in the two areas and carried out combing operations to search, in vain, for the resistance men.

Antoine Lahad's Forces Attacked Near Sidon

JN141816 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist forces have attacked a position belonging to the agent Antoine Lahad's militias, which are armed and financed by Zionist occupation forces, near the port of Sidon. The attack, which was carried out with machine guns and hand grenades, severely damaged the position and killed or wounded many of its personnel. A Zionist source admitted the operation, but refrained from disclosing any losses. The source said that Zionist forces besieged the area and carried out a large-scale campaign to search for the resistance men, who safely withdrew to their bases. A Zionist miltary spokesman also admitted that a hand grenade was hurled at a Zionist patrol on a Sidon street yesterday. However, he claimed that the attack did not result in any losses or damages.

PLO Radio Criticizes Syrian Media Campaigns

JN121008 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1625 GMT 11 May 84

[Unatributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the Syrian radio and newspapers are using empty phrases and words which express only a state of misunderstanding in order to wage an information campaign against the Palestinian revolutionary legitimacy, to defame the revolution's leader, and to cast doubts on the Palestinian leadership's struggle functions. These campaigns do not deserve our reply, because we are concerned about not slipping into a useless media exchange. However, we would like to note that the statements some Syrian officials have made are not only meaningless, but are also in conflict with the known realities at this stage.

These statements are related to the presence of mediation efforts to solve the crisis in Palestinian-Syrian relations. In these statements, Syrian officials strongly deny that there are either Soviet or Arab mediation efforts to settle this crisis, while everyone knows that there are such efforts. We are concerned here in affirming that the PLO has more than once welcomed Soviet and Arab mediation efforts to solve problems with the Syrians. This is because the PLO's revolutionary legitimacy is aware of the fact that continuing the deteriorating Palestinian-Syrian relations means a further loss of Palestinian struggle efforts in matters that are far from the basic target — namely, intensifying struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Furthermore, because of its strong relations of struggle with the USSR and Arab countries that are leading these mediation efforts, the PLO can reject neither the efforts being made by these friends and brothers nor their viewpoints in this regard. This is because the relations of alliance make it necessary to exchange and integrate viewpoints. Also, for many objective reasons, the PLO still welcomes mediation efforts and still seeks to solve all problems with the Syrian regime. This is the national and pan-Arab responsible stand which aims at settling the situation in the Arab region and solving differences in order to unite our ranks and use our resources to face the ugly fragmentation plan aimed at Balkanizing the region — a trend that is steered by the United States and the Zionist enemy. Everyone knows that uniting our ranks and resources is the only way to confront this ugly plan. Otherwise, the matter will then warrant embarrassing questions whose answers would be even more embarrassing.

Why does the Syrian regime disregard these mediation efforts and either insist on ignoring them or consider them as not available? This question is one of these questions. Before answering this question, we should recall that, in addition to these efforts, there is a Palestinian dialogue that is seeking to end differences in the Palestinian arena and to reorganize the Palestinian house within the PLO framework — in light of its independent national decisionmaking and under the umbrella of its revolutionary legitimacy. This objective must be achieved in order to burn out this exceptional stage and overcome its dangers, which threaten the entire Palestinian body with destruction and extermination.

Thus, do we understand from this premise that the Syrian regime's disregard of the mediation efforts and its media organs' new campaigns against the Palestinian revolutionary legitimacy aim at hampering and foiling the march of the Palestinian dialogue? For whose benefit does the hampering of the legitimate Palestinian frameworks and institutions continue at a time when the Zionist enemy is advancing with recollecting its scattered cards and solving its deteriorating crises, making use of the current paralysis in the legitimate Palestinian institutions?

We ask the brothers in the essential Palestinian groups under the PLO umbrella the following: Until when shall we remain captives of Syrian policy and decisionmaking? Why does this submission to Syrian pressure permit the hampering and foiling of any Palestinian effort that aims at uniting ranks in order to step up the revolution's march and intensify the efforts of struggle in order to direct the heaviest blows at the Zionist enemy, which is currently fumbling in its deteriorating crises? Shall we accept the enemy'sreorganizing its cards and house before we reorganize our cards and house? This subject does not need much argument, and the differences do not need more theories and adherence to certain political stands that are actually not related to the conflict and do not contribute to developing Palestinian confrontation of the Zionist enemy.

Finally, we cannot understand why this continuing submission to Syrian decisionmaking takes place. We do not want to raise more

questions about this point, but we say that the recent Syrian media campaign against the Palestinian legitimacy, while we are workingtoward continuing the Palestinian dialogue, has obvious intentions; namely, hampering this dialogue. Shall we accept this?

Voice of PLO Urges Conference on Middle East

JN122034 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1629 GMT 12 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] For 2 successive days, yesterday and the day before yesterday, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat expressed their countries' opinions that an international conference under UN auspices is the only possible solution to the Middle East's difficult problems and crises. The general concept of this conference, as it is understood these days, is that all parties concerned — including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the UN Security Council permanent member states, and perhaps other parties — must attend this conference.

As is known, this same subject was also an important element in the talks that Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held in the PRC during his visit to that friendly country last week. At that time, Palestinian and PRC statements were made supporting and calling for such an international conference on the Middle East. Moreover, the PRC has said that it will support this concept should it be proposed in a serious and official manner to the UN Security Council. Everyone can certainly recall that the concept of an international conference on the Middle East is a concept that the USSR has called for, repeated, and defended for years. Everyone can also recall that what has been known as the Brezhnev initiative on this matter was respected by the PLO and most Arab states. Moreover, this initiative was taken into consideration when the Arab peace plan known as the Fes plan was drawn up. There is certainly nothing that would make us believe that the Soviet Union has changed its stand and would not support an international conference on the region's crisis and its central issue, the Palestinian question.

However, the major obstacle to the possibility of convening such an international conference is still represented by the policy of the United States and Israel. As is known, this imperialist, expansionist, unilateral policy has foiled all serious calls, efforts, and attempts that have been made in this direction in the past. There are no signs to date that the equation has changed. However, is this equation unchangeable?

We began this commentary by saying that support for an international conference on the Middle East was announced concurrently in Syria and Jordan. As we know, Syria and Jordan are not in agreement these days. The PLO voiced support for this conference last week, as it has throughout the past years. And, as is known, Syria and the PLO are not in agreement these days. Support for a call, which is basically a Soviet call, has also come from the PRC. Everyone is aware of the differences in the Soviet and PRC stands. Moreover, an international conference on the Middle East is part of the Arab summit in Fes, despite the fact that Arab differences prevent the convening of a new summit that would give a vital push to the Arab peace plan.

In order to change this equation which the United States and Israel oppose, it is necessary to create a pressing front that links harmony and joint effort. It is clear that creating such a front necessitates neutralizing all differences not directly related to the issue of an international conference on the Middle East. If it is possible that the call for convening this conference is supported by Syria and Jordan, which are not in agreement, the PLO and Syria, which are not in agreement, the PRC and the USSR, which are not in agreement, and the Arab summit, which Arab differences do not allow to be convened — if all of this disagreement can agree on the call for holding an international conference on the Middle East, then creating a front in this direction is probable. However, we must not simplify the matter, and we must recall and be reminded of the fact that creating such a front begins with the smallest groups and ends with the collection of these groups.

We as Palestinians, whose cause is the crux of the problem, are an example of the unity of the first group, which is represented by the meeting that our revolution's factions held in Algiers. Perhaps a possible sequence would be based on a Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian axis, then on an Arab axis, and later on an international axis, taking into consideration that all efforts on all axes must be exerted at the same time. The matter is not easy; however, it is possible. We as Palestinians must exert the utmost and give the positive example.

Voice of PLO Says Time on Palestinian Side

JN142046 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 May 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Many U.S. and U.S.-related circles often speak officially or unofficially about what they call the slipping chances and the time element working against the Palestinians. These circles spread such talk on various levels and through various media and propaganda channels with the aim of showing that they have objective opinions. What provokes us is not the evil aims of this talk against the Palestinian people and national cause. What provokes us is the way they present their propaganda. They want to give the impression that the U.S. Administration wants a real solution for the Palestinian problem, that it is genuinely working for just, permanent peace.

This is provocative reasoning, because these circles want to realize two very serious goals. The first is casting doubt on the Palestinian people's intentions and their real desire for a just and permanent peace by showing that these people are losing the chances for peace — the chances presented by the U.S. plans, which are in fact liquidationist projects that meet neither legitimate Palestinian ambitions nor our people's inalienable rights. Thus, the U.S. Administration tries to corner our people and force them to accept the U.S. plans.

The second cause of provocation is that the U.S. Administration is trying to improve its ugly image. In order to spread this lie and

illusion, these circles show that the United States is genuinely endeavoring to realize a just, permanent peace in the Middle East. The real facts show that the United States does not want stability or security in this region, and hence does not want just peace, because it is a lethal weapon against its aggressive interests in this region. This just peace cannot be established without realizing our people's national, just, and inalienable rights, particularly their right to self-determination, to return, and to establish their independent state on their national soil. The people of the world know that the United States firmly objects to this principle and fights against it with all available means. This is not only because it is connected with Israel in a close, strategic manner, but also because this principle opposes its plans and destructive projects in the Arab region, which it wants to disintegrate, dominate, and place within its strategic global calculations for military bases in its struggle against the socialist states led by the USSR.

Chances for peace are not slipping away, as the U.S. Administration says. Time is not going against the Palestinians. On the contrary. From the historical viewpoint time is working in the interests of the Palestinian people and their march of freedom. It is a question of balance of power, which will inevitably change because the elements of change are present in the Arab land. We will not import them from other planets. The balance of power, which is now disturbed in the enemy's interest, is not and will not be a permanent situation.

Therefore, the question is simpler than what the Americans believe. The slipping chances they are talking about are slipping only for them. They lost their opportunities because they could not impose their destructive, liquidationist plans on the Palestinian people and their brave revolution. They will always lose their chances. Our people are convinced that the future will be for them and for their nationalist and noble humanitarian aims.

KUWAIT

Oil Official Comments on Tanker Incident

GF141429 Doha QNA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 14 May (QNA) — Referring to the incident of the Kuwaiti oil tanker *Umm Casbah*, Mr Hasan Qabadazad, deputy chairman of the board of directors of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, said that the company has sent a delegation of the company's experts and technical engineers to Bahrain to study and examine the damage which the tanker sustained and later prepare a detailed report on the incident. Whether this incident will result in changing the route of the Kuwaiti tankers in the future, the Kuwaiti official said in his statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* here today, that the company's oil tankers travel a route outside the war zone of the two sides and was outside the zone when the incident occurred; thus the tankers will continue their normal route. As to whether contacts are being made among the GCC countries to study the incident and the threat to oil tankers in the Gulf in general, he said he has no knowledge if such contacts will be made among the GCC countries regarding this issue since there has been a rise in the threat to tankers in the region, but he concluded by saying that no measures will be taken until after the situation is made clear by the report of the company's engineers and experts delegation.

Second Oil Tanker Damaged

LD141612 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1553 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 14 May (KUNA) — Another Kuwaiti oil tanker suffered damage as a result of bombing in the Gulf at 1245 GMT today, it has been announced here. 'Abd al-Fattah al-Badr, the chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, told KUNA that the tanker *Bahrah* was "bombed by an unidentified aircraft." He added that the attack on the tanker, which was not carrying oil, took place at 1545 Kuwait time while sailing at latitude 27 30 north and longtitude 52 49 east. Al-Badr said that the bombing "caused great damage to the right side of the tanker and blew a 5.25 meter hole. Another bomb, he said, destroyed part of the command tower and the officers living quarters. Al-Badr said that two people sustained light injuries "but there was no loss of life." The fire resulting from the attack has now been put out and the tanker is sailing to Kuwait. Al-Badr announced yesterday that the Kuwaiti oil tanker *Umm Casbah* which was sailing through the Gulf carrying over 76,000 tons of Kuwaiti crude for Britain was attacked "by an unidentified aircraft." There were no casualties among its crew, and they proceeded to Bahrain for repairs.

Cabinet Discusses Tankers

LD151102 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti cabinet here Tuesday held an extraordinary meeting presided over by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah to review latest information on the missile attacks lately launched against two Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf. The meeting was held at the National Assembly building before an assembly ordinary session convened this morning. Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusif al-Adsani also participated in the meeting. The National Assembly session, is now held in camera at the request of eight deputies following one and half hours of an open meeting.

National Assembly Statement

LD151426 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1127 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 15 May (KUNA) — The following is the text of the statement issued by the Kuwaiti National Assembly at the end of its 3-hour closed session this morning.

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. A statement from the National Assembly:

The National Assembly has taken note of the aggression committed against some Kuwaiti oil tankers in the past 2 days while they were outside prohibited areas. The oil tankers were fired on and damaged; some of their crews were injured though the tankers had done nothing wrong and had not violated any international laws. This sinful aggression has angered the Kuwaiti people. Their representatives rushed to convene a closed session to discuss the aggression and hear a government statement explaining the implications of the incidents and the measures and precautions taken to deal with any further complications or developments.

The government statement was delivered by the heir apparent and prime minister. It covered matters pertaining to the incidents and reassured the assembly about the soundness of the measures adopted. While denouncing the unjust series of aggression on Kuwait and its people, which undoubtedly constitute a violation of all international laws guaranteeing the freedom of international navigation, the assembly called on the government to adopt all firm and necessary measures to deal with this serious matter which threatens Kuwait's security and interests. The assembly and the government will follow the development of this matter.

May God preserve Kuwait and the Arab and Islamic nations from all evil, and let the scheming of the aggressor recoil against him.

AR-RAY AL-AMM on 'Conspiracy'

LD151212 Kuwait KUNA in English 1023 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA) — A leading paper warned here Tuesday that the second missile attack against a Kuwaiti oil tanker, within less than 24 hours, meant that parties conspiring to plunge the entire Gulf states into war have gone into action.

The independent *AR-RAY AL-AMM* newspaper wrote in its editorial column that whether the attack is meant to bring Kuwaiti oil production or export operations to a halt, "one is certain that Kuwait has been singled out for punishment, as a step for punishing the Arabian Gulf states collectively, and is targetted for a long time now," the paper asserted. The daily cited different developments in the Gulf region and charged that they

were part of a wider plan aimed in the end at open foreign intervention in the area. It urged exposure of the identity of attacking planes in order to establish whether the incidents had been accidental or intended by an adversary. This, the paper added, is necessary for Kuwait to decide on the next step and to prepare, seriously, for action either individually or at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

AL-RAY AL-AMM cautioned that a third party, specifically the U.S., may be interested in the Gulf war escalation to further its aims in express military intervention and presence in the region, under the pretext of protecting its vital interests, topped by oil, in the Gulf. The paper recalled that of late, the U.S. has been mounting a feverish and frenzied drive for gaining military foothold in the Gulf and establishing American bases in the region and indicated that attacks against oil tankers can provide it with the necessary excuse.

The commentary concluded by urging quick action by Kuwait's government, in coordination with the other five Gulf Cooperation Council states, towards sorting out things and stands before they tend to become entangled and complicated to the extent that people will be overwhelmed and caught in the conspiracy web.

Ministry Source Denies Approving Jewish Congress

LD151042 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry denied categorically allegations reported by AP quoting one of the Zionist enemy's papers that Kuwait had given Morocco its tacit agreement on the convocation of the Moroccan Jews' conference in Rabat with the presence of an Israeli delegation. The source, in its statement to KUNA, said that despite the fact that such allegations deserve no attention, the truth necessitates the clarification of Kuwait's stance, which is known to the whole world, in supporting our nation's causes and defending them.

Foreign Ministry Official Departs for Moscow, Tour

LD130936 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0859 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 13 May (KUNA) — Under Secretary at the Foreign Ministry Rashid ar-Rashid left the country this morning for Moscow via Geneva on a tour that will include the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria. The tour, which comes in response to official invitations, will continue until 25 May.

Before his departure Ar-Rashid stated to KUNA that in Moscow he will discuss bilateral relations between the two countries on the political, economic, and social levels. He will also discuss the issues of the region, including the Iraq-Iran war, the Middle East issue, and the international situation in general.

He said that such visits are very important to exchange views, explore positions and push the issues which we believe constitute a danger to the international situation and world peace toward positions nearer peace and suitable solutions. Ar-Rashid said that in Kuwait, as a neutral and nonaligned country, we always aspire to good relations built on understanding and cooperation with all parties. He pointed out that in visiting the other countries he and the accompanying delegation will discuss the good relations that connect Kuwait with them.

Ar-Rashid praised the bilateral economic, political and cultural relations that connect Kuwait with the mentioned countries, and said that he will discuss these relations extensively. He expressed his hopes that the visits will result in consolidating bilateral relations between Kuwait and these countries, which finally is a consolidation of comprehensive Arab relations with these countries.

Ar-Rashid is accompanied on this tour by an official delegation which includes officials from the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade and Industry and Petroleum, and from some government institutions. Kuwait is the only country of the GCC — which includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Oman and Bahrain — that has good relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, with the Soviet Union at their forefront.

SAUDI ARABIA

'Source' Denies Approval of Moroccan Jewish Meeting

LD151150 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1107 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Commenting on a REUTER report quoting a member of the Israeli Knesset, Yosi Sarid, on the visit by an Israeli delegation to Morocco that he was certain His Majesty King Hassan would not have allowed their invitation had he not had in hand the agreement of Saudi Arabia and the PLO, a Saudi information source said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was in no way privy to prior information on the visit of this delegation except through news reports. The source has also categorically denied that the Kingdom had any prior contacts with any quarter concerning this matter. The source adds: It is common knowledge that the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stems from its announced basic foundations regarding the Palestinian issue — namely, the withdrawal of Israel from all the lands occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the return of the Palestinian people to its land, with the right to self-determination.

PDRY

DFLP Secretary General Arrives in Aden

GF141536 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, arrived in Aden this morning on a several-days visit to our country, during which he will hold discussions with YSP leaders on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena in particular and in the Arab region in general. He was received at the airport by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, and number of brother officials at the secretariat of YSP Central Committee.

Decree Issued on Amending State Council Law

NC121523 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today issued a republican decree referring to the People's Assembly a bill to amend certain provisions of the State Council law. The bill provides that the State Council be an independent judiciary body. It adds that the State Council president be appointed by the president of the republic from among the deputies of the State Council president after consultations with an ad hoc general assembly to be formed by the State Council president, deputies, and secretaries, as well as advisers who have held this post for 2 years. The bill also provides that the State Council members from the post of delegate and above cannot be dismissed and must enjoy all the privileges applicable to the judiciary. The bill provides that a council for administrative affairs be formed in the State Council under its president to deal with the appointment of State Council members and issues related to their seniority, promotion, transfer, and assignment, as well as the discussion of relevant complaints. The views of the council of administrative affairs must be considered in bills relevant to the State Council.

Mubarak Urges People To Vote in Coming Elections

NC141630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak called on the people to fulfill their electoral duties by voting in the coming People's Assembly elections. He described voting in the elections as a national duty. The elections, Mubarak said, are the road to popular participation in the government and in shaping Egypt's future. In a message addressed today on People's Assembly Day, Mubarak said the issue is not how to elect some individuals to parliamentary seats, but how to select our course in this critical, historic turning point in order to achieve the objectives of ensuring comprehensive social and economic development, strengthening our country, and relieving the suffering of the majority of our people. The president added: The parliamentary campaign is not a struggle between individuals or a contest between shiny promises. It is mainly a test of our collective ability to confront the gigantic challenges facing us.

The following is the text of the president's message:

Brother citizens:

We are today celebrating People's Assembly Day together. It is a significant and prominent day in the history of our noble people's struggle for a sound constitutional life in which the people govern, all loyalty is for the homeland, legitimacy and the rule of law are above everything else, and the role of the establishments in leading national action, defending the popular will, and consolidating democratic practices grows deeper.

It is appropriate for us on this national occasion to take a critical look at the historic events taking place today in Egypt, which will have far-reaching effects and echoes all over the Arab homeland and in many parts of the Third World. This requires each of us to have a clear vision of the homeland's national objectives and vital interests and to make an objective choice over the role he will undertake in fulfilling and preserving them.

The starting point in our thinking must be that since we have completed the liberation of our national soil, we must direct a larger part of our thinking and action toward the consolidation of genuine democratic concepts which guarantee the protection of the people's basic interests in the near and distant future, strengthen the pillars of social peace, protect Egypt from the calamities of conflict, tension, and instability, and allow us to continue to develop the experiment and to rectify its course in all stages.

Dear brothers and sisters, from the premise of my commitment to the sublime interests of the homeland and from the position of responsibility that you have allowed me to shoulder, I address an appeal to each one of you: We must all carry out our electoral duty and cast our votes. This is a national duty and it is our course to popular participation in the government and shaping the future of the good land of Egypt. We ask God to guide our steps, grant us wisdom, and enable us to judge our minds and conscience when proceeding to perform the most important national duty at the most delicate stage. The issue goes beyond merely choosing a number of individuals for membership in the People's Assembly. The issue is how to select the course that we will follow at this critical, historic turning point in order to achieve our objectives of comprehensive social and economic development and to provide further strength and glory for our beloved Egypt.

The battle is not a struggle among persons or a race to give glittering promises to the voters. It is in the first place a test of our collective capacity to confront the colossal challenges that impede our march, so that there will be a divergence of opinions and a variety of interpretations, the front will remain cohesive, and the people will have the upper hand. I have full confidence that our noble people know their way and that they are capable, on the basis of their unique historic sense, of laying down the prominent features of the future course and of translating hopes into facts through sincerity and action, loyalty, and impartiality, thus rising to the level of responsibility and dedication in performing the duty for the sake of God and the homeland. May God grant us all success and guide us to the true path. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Ghali Says Rabat Conference 'Positive Step'

JN142108 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 May 84

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Egypt views the convocation of the Jewish conference in Morocco which comprises Israeli figures as a positive step that is in line with the invitation for dialogue and negotiations. In the first official comment, Dr Butrus Ghali told our radio that Egypt believes it to be a positive step, one that will help to attain just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said that this move also conforms with the Egyptian trend, which is based on dialogue.

Muhyi ad-Din Meets Austria's Lanc 14 May

NC141444 Cairo MENA in English 1315 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Cairo, May 14 (MENA) — Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din conferred before noon today with Erwin Lanc, foreign minister of Austria, and his accompanying delegation. The Austrian minister said later they discussed the situation in the Middle East and the steps that should be adopted during the coming months in order to bring about lasting and just peace in the region. Developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the need for bringing it to a halt were also discussed. Means of consolidating cooperation between Egypt and Austria, particularly joint ventures between the two countries, were discussed in regard to the visit of Premier Muhyi ad-Din to Austria last November, Lanc said.

Austrian Foreign Minister Leaves

NC150848 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 May (MENA) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning for home following a 3-day visit during which they met with President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Baz Holds Cairo News Conference 13 May

NC131729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, has stressed that relations between Egypt and the Palestinian people are extremely good, while describing them as strategic and historic. He affirmed Egypt's commitment to helping the Palestinian people to continue their efforts for peace and for achieving self-determination, which is a right that must not be denied. This came during a news conference Dr al-Baz held this afternoon at the Foreign Correspondents Club. The news conference was attended by Dr Mamduh al-Bultaji, chairman of the information office.

Replying to a question, Al-Baz said: When we started the peace process, our goal was to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination. We are still committed to this and still hold the view that the right to self-determination is the basis for solving the problem. He added: When the Palestinians withdrew from Lebanon, our views were that this departure would not solve the problem. We believe that the Palestinian people must exercise their rights and that they can do that. We believe neither Egypt nor any other country is entitled to exercise the Palestinian people's rights for them.

Dr al-Baz added: We believe the Palestinian people want to achieve peace. This was affirmed through Yasir 'Arafat's recent interview with the British newspaper, *THE OBSERVER*. This is an extremely important statement and constitutes the first recognition by the Palestinian leadership of the principle of coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis. This has always been Egypt's firm view. We hope both sides will agree on mutual recognition. Al-Baz also said: We hope the Palestinian issue will not be shelved in the next few months as a result of the elections in the United States and Israel. This must not prevent us from moving. He asserted that Egypt will continue its commitments to maintain the momentum on the Palestinian issue, because lack of movement will affect the issue.

Replying to a question by *THE LONDON TIMES*, Dr al-Baz said Israel's current policy ignores the Palestinian people's rights. He said there is an important problem, the Palestinian problem, which is causing tension in the area. It is impossible to continue to ignore this problem and its causes, and that the Palestinian right to self-determination is the key to a solution. Regrettably, Al-Baz said, so far we see no indication that Israel will recognize the Palestinian people's rights. Al-Baz said Yasir 'Arafat's latest statement is considered an important step on the right path.

Replying to a question on Egypt's relations with Arab countries and on whether Egypt rules out resuming relations with Syria and Libya, Al-Baz said: Egypt's policy is based on good relations with all countries. As we worked for peace with Israel, we are undeniably working to achieve good relations with Arab countries. We have no reservations over nor exclude any Arab country. We started our affirmation to the Knesset that peace must be comprehensive and we are working to achieve this. He added: We are interested in our neighbors, and Libya is our neighbor. Differences with Libya are going through a passing phase. The time will come when Libyan policy will change and the normal situation will be restored.

Dr al-Baz said certain contacts took place between Egypt and Libya concerning specific issues such as travel and other facilities. He said that these contacts did not make any progress and that differences still exist and are not expected to be solved shortly. As for Syria, Al-Baz said, we have absolutely no contacts with it, but the atmosphere in relations improved in the past 2 years as a result of ending critical campaigns.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that Egypt does not exclude any Arab country, adding: As I have said, Egypt's commitment is to work for peace between Israel and Arab countries. We believe the time will come when Syria will regain the Golan Heights and will participate in the peace process. Replying to another question, Al-Baz said: We believe Israel has no right to oppose any relationship between Egypt and any other country, particularly the United States.

Dr al-Baz said that when the peace treaty was signed, the United States was committed to the role of full partner and to achieving peace. This commitment must involve establishing peace between Israel and Arab countries and not assisting a certain country to achieve a military superiority, because this runs counter to the U.S. role of full partner. It also allows this country [Israel]to refuse to respond to the peace process and damages [yusa'ib] the process.

During his news conference, Dr al-Baz reaffirmed that Israel has absolutely no right to influence the United States not to give Egypt what it wants. He said the United States has not hesitated to supply military equipment to Egypt because it knows that Egypt asks for defensive weapons to maintain peace in the area. Replying to a question on the Israeli elections and the Israeli Labor Party, Al-Baz said: We do not interfere in Israel's

domestic affairs. However, I note that what is important is not changing parties, but changing the policy on the Palestinian problem and working to solve it. Al-Baz said the position of the Israeli Labor Party on this issue remains negative. He added: Our policy is to seek to change the policy, not the parties. Asked about Canada Camp, which houses Palestinians now living in Sinai, and why Israel is obstructing its transfer to Gaza, Dr al-Baz said: Egyptian contacts in this regard are continuing. It is likely that this issue will be resolved this year or next year. Asked about Egypt's hosting of the Palestine Research Center, Al-Baz said: Egypt has received no request to host this center. This is not a difference between us.

Questioned about the extent of the success of Egyptian efforts and initiatives to end the Iraq-Iran war, Dr al-Baz said: Iran has rejected all the peace initiatives submitted by various states and organizations. Despite this, we believe this rejection should not dissuade us from intensifying our efforts. He added: When Egypt embarked on its initiative, it did not do so to support Iraq against Iran, but to stop the bloodshed between the two neighboring Muslim states.

Al-Baz further said: The Egyptian move is not an isolated one, but is being carried out through the Nonaligned Movement. We do not act outside the framework of this movement, but within it to end the war. We believe the Nonaligned Movement is better suited to carry out this role and exert a positive influence. Dr al-Baz added: Egypt began its move by first contacting India. President Husni Mubarak sent a message to Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and chairman of the movement. He also sent messages to some heads of Nonaligned Movement member-states. He said the reaction to the Egyptian move was encouraging, although it does not inspire total optimism.

Al-Baz pointed out that all the nonaligned states, particularly the Islamic states, are fully aware of the importance of intensifying efforts to end the war. This encourages us to continue our efforts. We have left no stone unturned in our efforts to end this war. Al-Baz went on: The purpose of this move is not only to end the war, but also to establish stability in the Gulf region so that this war will not open the door to foreign interference. We believe it is our duty to continue the efforts to bring the parties to the negotiating table. Iran's attitude must not stop us from trying to achieve this. Our policy is to work for ending the war. Dr al-Baz said the ideas that Egypt presented to the Nonaligned Movement do not represent Iraqi ideas, but ideas that serve the two states and the entire region. Al-Baz added: If Iran wants to learn the Egyptian stand, then it can do so and it can judge it through these ideas, which emphasize the extent of our interest in establishing peace between Iraq and Iran and in ending the war between them.

Asked about the recent events and current situation in Sudan, Dr al-Baz said: We believe that the Sudanese people can overcome any problems facing them, and that most of the Third World countries are facing the same social and economic problems. As for the political situation in Sudan, a movement exists in the south. The next few months will witness African (?moves) to resolve differences among the Sudanese in the south. He further said Egypt has special relations with Sudan, adding: We have begun the integration process, and the strategic goals of both countries are the same. What affects Sudan affects Egypt. We do not interfere in Sudan's internal affairs, nor are we a party to any of its domestic affairs. We are, however, committed to assisting Sudan against any foreign intervention. Replying to another question, Al-Baz said the Africans are making moves with Sudan to settle the situation in southern Sudan. He said these efforts are proceeding in a practical manner.

Asked about Egyptian-Libyan relations and whether a change in Libyan policy is likely, Dr al-Baz said Libya is required to change not only its policy toward Egypt, but also toward most of the African countries and other states, particularly Sudan, Tunisia, and Chad.

Replying to a question on Al-Qadhdhafi's remark on his ambitions in Chad, Dr al-Baz said: We are against this and support Chad's internationally recognized borders, which are also recognized by the OAU. We are committed to this. As for the possibility of changes in Libya, we do not interfere in the domestic affairs of any country and leave it up to the people of any country to make the changes they want. This is our policy.

Asked about President Husni Mubarak's statement in his 1 May speech on the transfer of the embassy of any country from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Dr al-Baz said moving the embassy of any country from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is considered a violation of international law and creates a problem, not only over Jerusalem, but also over the Palestinian issue. He affirmed that this contravenes international law and the peace treaty. He said Israel must abide by what it signed.

On Israeli measures in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, Dr al-Baz said Egypt declared that any measures taken by Israel in the occupied territory are illegal and cannot be legal or imposed as faits accomplis in any future talks.

He said the measures Israel is taking in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip are null and void. They create an obstacle in the way of peace but do not create a new situation or fait accompli, he added.

Asked about relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, and about raising these relations to the ambassadorial level, Dr al-Baz said: We made it clear on several occasions that we have no objection to exchanging ambassadors with Moscow. We recalled our ambassador from Moscow following certain incidents. The issue of the return of the two ambassadors to both capitals is a matter of time, and agreement will be reached on it between the two countries. Al-Baz added: "I repeat that we have no objection to this and that we have the desire. It is a matter of time and it will be settled in an agreement between us."

Asked about Egyptian political parties and their right to campaign through the official media, Dr al-Baz said: Our policy is based on the right of every party to speak to the people and explain its stand and plans. There are five party newspapers advocating the views of every party without any interference. The radio and television networks have allocated time for the parties to explain their programs. He said that the parties decided to participate in the radio and television programs. Three parties have already done this. If any party feels that the time was

insufficient, he added, it will be given another chance to express its views.

Asked if this means giving every party two chances, Al-Baz said: Yes.

Asked about the continuing Israeli occupation of Lebanon, Dr al-Baz said the danger of this continued occupation still exists, and it can deprive Lebanon of stability and security and can pose a threat to the region's security. He said: We believe in the necessity and importance of ending this occupation. Obviously, the majority of the Lebanese people are determined to end this occupation because it poses a threat to their security and stability. Al-Baz added: In light of events in the past months, it can be said that the Israeli occupation of Lebanon may end before the end of the year and that Lebanon will witness various changes, the most important of which will be the Israeli withdrawal and end of the occupation. The situation may thus improve. We believe the troubles that the Lebanese people have suffered from must stop. The first responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Lebanese people themselves. We believe the Lebanese people and their leaders must be given a chance to reach this goal. He stressed Egypt's welcome and support for the new Lebanese government.

AL-AKHBAR on 15 May 'Corrective Revolution'
NC150652 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0420 GMT 15 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Atmosphere of Freedom and the Return of Affiliation Achieved Victory," an *AL-AKHBAR* editorial emphasizes that the 15 May Revolution, which we celebrate today while enjoying freedom and democracy, is not just an anniversary that crosses our mind. It has constant meaning for our life and is a firm principle to which we adhere. When the late leader Anwar As-Sadat launched this magnificent corrective revolution, he, in fact, wanted a permanent correction of the country's march and wanted Egyptians to follow this corrective course as a guide. As a matter of fact, As-Sadat launched this revolution to safeguard the mother revolution, the July Revolution. He declared the end of the revolutionary legal order and the establishment of the constitutional legal order which we are enjoying as a system of rule and work.

The great corrective measures reestablished the supremacy of law, returned to the judiciary its prestige and immunity, and returned exiles to the lap of mother Egypt. In addition, the corrective measures abolished sequestrations and opened the doors of jails and detention camps to release those who remained jailed for a long time. The measures returned to every Egyptian his pride. *AL-AKHBAR* says that this atmosphere of freedom, pride, and affiliation to the homeland led to the immortal day of 6 October, when the Egyptian Army achieved victory, which was considered by some people as impossible, and returned prestige and pride to every Egyptian and Arab citizen following years of humiliation. Also, the Sinai was liberated from Israeli occupation. The paper asserts that democracy and freedom of the press and of parties, now prevalent in Egypt and praised by the whole world, are one of the fruits of the glorious 15 May revolution in which the will of the people triumphed. Concluding its editorial, *AL-AKHBAR* urges Egyptians to do their utmost to retain this great achievement and establish security, stability, prosperity, and peace for beloved Egypt.

INA Cites Shipping Sources on Gulf Attack

JN141328 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] London, 14 May (INA) — Informed shipping sources said here today that two tankers were hit with Iraqi missiles south of the Iranian Khark Island last night.

The same sources told INA today that the first was an Iranian tanker called the *Tabriz* and the second a Greek tanker called the *Esperanza*. These sources indicated that the *Tabriz* was carrying crude oil from Khark Island. It was hit by an Iraqi missile 10 miles from the tanker *Al-Ahud*, which was also hit by an Iraqi missile on 7 May.

The Greek tanker *Esperanza* was hit south of Khark Island while on its way to the Khark oil terminal to be loaded with oil.

This morning, Iraq announced that its fighter planes attacked two large naval targets south of Khark Island on the night of 13-14 May.

Jasim: No Naval, Air Activities Since Midnight

JN141827 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has stated that Iraq has not carried out any naval or air activities in the Arab Gulf area since midnight last night. The Iraqi minister's statement to INA this evening comes in reply to reports disseminated by world news agencies that another Kuwaiti oil tanker, *Bahrah*, was hit today by a missile fired from an unidentified plane.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,465 - 14 May

JN141658 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1604 GMT 14 May 84

[Communique No 1,465 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 14 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While confronting the unjust Iranian enemy on land, at sea, and in the air, our valiant Armed Forces continue their triumphant activities against the enemy forces of aggression and continue to inflict more losses in life and equipment on the enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. With the help of Almighty God and with great success, a successful air strike was carried out against two large naval targets south of the Iranian Khark Island on the night of 13-14 May 1984. Our Air Force's able aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to base after accomplishing their mission, praise be to God. Thus, we confirm our great ability to continue our siege of Khark Island and the other Iranian ports in the Arab Gulf, and to strike at any oil tanker or naval target that tries to approach them.

2. Our valiant forward units used all types of weapons to pound enemy positions, troop concentrations, and engineering equipment in the operational sector east of Basra, killing three, wounding others, and destroying two small boats, five vehicles, two infantry positions, one hardware stockpile, and one weapons emplacement, whose occupants were killed.

3. Our helicopter gunships belonging to the army's Air Force today carried out effective raids against enemy targets opposite our forward units' positions in the operational sectors east of Basra and east of Tigris, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Known enemy losses amount to four boats and two personnel assembly points destroyed. All of our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. Yesterday, a valiant force carried out a raid against an enemy troop concentration in the Maysan operational sector, killing five, sinking two boats, and capturing several pieces of military hardware and light weapons. In another area in the same sector, two enemy elements were killed, and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed.

5. One of our forward units shelled enemy positions and artillery positions opposite its positions in the central sector of the battlefield, scoring effective hits, setting fire to enemy positions, and destroying two infantry positions.

6. One observation post was destroyed in the operational sector east of Tigris.

7. One infantry position was destroyed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

8. Yesterday evening and today, the evil Khomeyniite clique used heavy artillery to shell Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, Sayyid Sadiq, and Chandri and their suburbs. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling, several civilian installations were damaged in Basra; one civilian was wounded, and three houses were damaged in Mandali; one house was demolished in Ash-Shihabi; and several civilian properties were damaged in Sayyid Sadiq and Chandri.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 May 1984

President Awards Medals of Valor to Fighters

JN141514 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 14 May (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has stated that lofty Iraq can never be moved, that Iraq will never bow to anyone, and that the Iranian enemy will be compelled to bitterly admit this fact. In a speech he made today when awarding medals of valor to a group of Iraqi fighters, President Saddam Husayn said: We are confident that our forces' blows east of Maysan, east of Basra, and east of Tigris were so decisive and so effective on the political, social, and military levels that the enemy's capablity for aggression was weakened. President Saddam Husayn stressed that boundless hopes are pinned on the Iraqis crushing the enemy in defense of great Iraq. President Saddam Husayn added that the details of the heavy losses the Iranian enemy has sustained will be revealed not only through the documents that have been made public but also by the enemy itself, when the time comes for the enemy to reveal these losses.

Oil Minister Discusses Saudi Pipeline Project

GF111408 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 11 May (QNA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Mr Qasim Ahmad Taqi has said that Iraq has received the designs for the oil pipeline project that will pass through Saudi Arabia to export Iraqi oil. He pointed out that the project will be completed in two stages: The first stage will provide a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day and the second stage will provide a capacity of 1.6 million barrels a day.

In a statement in today's issue of the Kuwaiti *AL-WATAN* newspaper, the Iraqi Minister said that the present capacity of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline is 900,000 barrels a day, and that this will soon rise to 1 million barrels a day.

The Iraqi minister added that Iraqi production is sufficient for internal consumption and that a part of the surplus oil is being exported through the port of 'Aqaba and the Turkish ports.

On the subject of the international oil market situation, he said that despite the increase in demand as a result of the improvement in the world economic situation, the present situation will remain as it is until after 1985.

In reply to a question on whether his country had asked OAPEC to consider reinstating Egypt as a member of the organization, Mr Qasim Ahmad Taqi said that this subject was not under discussion and that the reinstatement of Egypt in various organizations is conditional upon its return to the Arab League.

Union Leader Meets Hungarian Counterpart

JN111654 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA) — Ahmad Muhsin 'Alwan, president of the Iraqi Trade Unions Federation, met here today with Ferenc Petrak, secretary general of the Hungarian Leather Industry Workers Union who is currently visiting Iraq. The two sides discussed relations between the two countries' trade unions, the means of promoting them, and the stands taken by the Iraqi and Hungarian trade unions on some Arab and international issues.

Trade Minister Returns From Poland 11 May

JN120948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 11 May (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, returned here tonight from Poland after a visit during which he signed the minutes of the session of the Iraqi-Polish joint committee for the economic and technical cooperation.

In a statement to INA, the Iraqi minister said that profound talks are being held with the Polish offiqials in the spheres of economic, technical, and trade cooperation. He said that the talks aim at achieving the means which will expand this cooperation. He noted that his talks dealt with the possibility of increasing the contribution of the Polish companies to the implementation of development projects in Iraq. Hasan 'Ali clarified that the meetings of the joint committee resulted in signing the minutes of an agreement for economic and technical cooperation and trade exchange, and in signing a protocol for financial cooperation between both countries.

The Iraqi trade minister said that both documents which were signed today have set up the bases and principles for bolstering cooperation between both countries throughout this year and the next year.

Indian Energy Minister Arrives 14 May

JN142001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA) — Shiv Narain Shankar, Indian minister of petroleum, energy, and coal fertilizers, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation to attend the Iraqi-Indian joint committee for economic, technical, and cultural cooperation to convene here tomorrow. In a statement to INA, the Indian minister said that his visit to friendly Iraq is not restricted to attending the joint committee's meeting, but also aims at promoting the advanced relations which exist between the two countries in all spheres. He was welcomed at the airport by Iraqi Oil Minister Ahmad Taqi.

Iran's Tehrani Describes Imprisonment

GF131633 Baghdad Television Service in Persian 0900 GMT 13 May 84

[Talk in series by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Tehrani — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] During the last session, I reached the point where they took me into the torture house. There were three persons inside. One was the same shaykh who had said that the pamphlets belong to Tehrani. One other was one of those people from Kashmar, named Sadeqi. The other was Musavi-Quchani. He turned out to be a nasty Seyyed.

Here I refer to what happened later. I saw that these people had been severely beaten. [Words indistinct] I said: O men without justice, these are human beings after all. My body began to shake. Someone caught my arm and sat me down. I turned my face to them and said: If a person is treated injustly, this does not mean he should also injure others. This injury is now directed at you. You should not name others so that they also are brought here and be subjected to torture and detention. You should bear down and put up with it.

These Savakists got annoyed, took me out and beat me up, and then they flung me into the cell.

But what really happened I cannot recall. It seems that these people could not put up with [the torture], even though Seyyed Musavi was saying that even Hadi Khamene'i himself had come and had confessed. I do not think he himself would have come. It seems Hadi Khamene'i had been exposed and he was also subjected to severe torture. One day I was in my cell — No. 20 — which was opposite the toilet. That day during a visit to the toilet he said in Arabic, so that the others do not understand him,

that he had been tortured a lot, and that he could not bear it. I replied that God is with those who are patient and I advised him to be patient.

Later they brought one or two of his colleagues. One was his colleague from Tehran. It seems that he had disclosed some secrets after all. There was a short man from Tehran, whose name I cannot recall. They brought him as well.

This all happened in the same prison which was later used by the regime. I was arrested on the 3d of Sha'ban [year not given]. Four days later they arrested and brought Mr 'Ashuri. Mr 'Ashuri was later killed. His cell was next to mine. He was a good companion. He cared nothing about those jailers. He kept himself occupied. He used to pray, talk, and sleep. He was not afraid of them. One complaint the jailors had was that Mr 'Ashuri did not care about them.

Later, I think it was either 14 or 15 Sha'ban, they arrested Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He was in cell No 15 — two cells away.

Now what happened. These were not tortured. But as to how they were questioned, I have no idea. We were under torture anyway.

One of the persons who did not fast even in his youth was Khomeyni himself. And his family also acted similarly. Khomeyni claimed that fasting was injurious to his eyes. His wife said it was not good for her indigestion, that she had stomach ailment, and therefore she could not fast. Hajj Mostafa used to fast, although he said he had inherited a weak chest from his father and a weak stomach from his mother. In the hot years he wouldinot fast for some days, which he used to make up in winter. But his father and mother never fasted.

I went to Qom once and I told them: Smugglers must not be executed. You said so yourself. He [Khomeyni] said: I still say the same. However, they keep doing it. Once Hajj Morteza Ha'eri told the Majlis to review the portion of the constitution which says that smugglers are not supposed to be executed. I went to Qom and informed him. Again he said that Mr Ha'eri was right. Yet again he did not pay any attention and still continues the mass murder. They murder them and then label them agents of imperialism and the United States, alleging that they are used to bring drugs to make addicts out of the people and defeat the revolution. I am sure that not even idiots accept such arguments. They don't accept it, but use it to explain their executions. Even if they were U.S. agents or murderers they should be jailed, not executed. Why would the United States want to pay them money to bring opium for the ordinary people? These ordinary people take heroin and opium because they are against you and seek to console themselves. If the United States wanted to do this, it would have to turn the guards into addicts, or the Majlis deputies, or the Cabinet. Would the United States do such a thing? God curse you for your infidelity and lies.

King Husayn Explains Policy to THE OBSERVER
JN131252 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] London — His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated that any settlement of the region's crisis must be based on the achievement of a comprehensive peace in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and on considering UN Resolution No 242 as the basis for any settlement in the region. In a statement to the British newspaper *THE OBSERVER* published today, his majesty the king said: Jordan rejects any separate settlement with Israel and refuses to replace the Palestinians in any peace talks. King Husayn clarified that any future talks must take place within an international framework and with the participation of all the parties in the Middle East dispute and with the five members in the UN Security Council, including the USSR.

His majesty the king said that following this step there should be a comprehensive settlement of all Arab rights. The king asserted the need for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and all the occupied Arab territories as a basis for a comprehensive settlement. King Husayn warned that the continuation of Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories seized in the aggression of June 1967, and the continuation of establishing Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, will remove the opportunities for achieving peace in the region. His Majesty King Husayn expressed regret over the U.S. Administration's policy and its submission to Zionist pressure in refusing to sell Jordan defensive weapons. He said: Jordan intends to purchase its defensive weapons from any source to defend its territory, especially the air defense systems needed to defend Jordanian airspace.

Prime Minister 'Ubaydat Gives TV Interview
JN112047 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1816 GMT 11 May 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat by moderator Muhammad Amin, Jordanian television news director; Mahmud ash-Sharif, general manager and editor in chief of *AD-DUSTUR*; and Tariq Masarwah, *AR-RA'Y* political columnist, in Amman; date not specified — video recorded]

[Text] [Muhammad Amin] We open this interview with the Palestinian problem. The first question is by Mahmud ash-Sharif.

[Mahmud ash-Sharif] Within the framework of the discussion which has been going on among the PLO brothers, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] recently visited Amman and held talks with officials in Amman. Statements were issued abroad which gave some impression of the results of the latest round of these talks. We would like the prime minister to give us an idea of the results of these talks and tell us whether these talks centered on the relationship which will follow the liberation of the occupied territory or whether they centered on the coordinated efforts for the liberation. This is because there are two axes on which these talks had been revolving. I assume these axes were: coordination to arrange relations following the liberation.

[Ahmad 'Ubaydat] In fact, I find myself forced to go back to the time when what we called the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue began. At that time, the dialogue had two aspects. The first was related to arranging a Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, which the two sides agreed would be a special relationship, because it has a well known meaning both in the Arab world and here among our Palestinian-Jordanian family and people. This relationship depicted a future concept of a balanced, equitable relationship between the Jordanians and Palestinians concerning post-liberation steps. The second aspect was related to what the Jordanians and Palestinian could do and the steps they would coordinate for the sake of liberation. At that time, a Jordanian statement, which was issued by a very responsible, official Jordanian quarter, gave the reasons for halting the talks. The statement covered that period of talks and explained some aspects of the situation so that the picture would be clear to everyone.

In my view, and on our part, we were positive to a great extent. We waited until the atmosphere, circumstances, and events became more mature so that the reasons pressuring the Palestinian side at that time would be removed. All of these reasons were regrettable from outside Jordan. Thus, the dialogue stopped.

The picture changed after the siege of the Palestinian resistance in Tripoli. Despite the suspension of the dialogue, contacts were not cut off between Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships, even during the siege. This is because Jordan's position on Palestinian legitimacy is well known. Jordan has abided by this declared position since the 1974 Rabat resolutions.

Palestinian-Jordanian contacts were resumed after the Tripoli siege, which is well-known to everyone, and after Brother Yasir 'Arafat returned to Jordan. We stopped talking about the dialogue in its old concept and started talking about Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, which centered on giving priority to liberating the land and saving the kinfolk, and also on doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering of our kinfolk in the occupied territory and to give more hope for steadfastness. The talks also centered on coordinating our steps and reorganizing the Jordanian- Palestinian house after those events, on the emergence of new circumstances, and on the disappearance — at least theoretically — of the opportunity that was presented in 1982 on the basis of which dialogue was started — namely, President Reagan's plan. We were thus faced with a new situation.

The Jordanian-Palestinian talks were resumed on this basis. Several meetings took place in Amman. We were very explicit with our Palestinian brothers that the occupied territory — everyone and everything that is in it — is the main subject to which Jordanian-Palestinian efforts, and subsequently Arab and international efforts, must be devoted. This is because this subject is the beginning and the end. These points were the focus of the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings.

It was on this basis that delegations representing different social strata and the majority of our kinfolk in the occupied territory came to Amman. The occupation authorities permitted some to come and others were not permitted to come. Our intention was not to use these delegations as pressure on the PLO leadership. It was very clear that the situation of the people in the occupied

territory should be the basis of the talks. This equation and its new configurations were not clear to the Jordanians and the Palestinians — or was not a point of final agreement — during the first dialogue. We had concentrated on this point during the first round of dialogue, but the point imposed itself on us during the second round. Thus, we were explicit and frank with ourselves and with our PLO brothers. Our meetings with the delegations from the occupied territory were the best proof of our sound approach right from the beginning. Dealing with the facts is the best approach.

What do we want from the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings? His majesty the king defined this subject with total simplicity, spontaneity, honesty, and sincerity. We are now talking — and we must talk — as a Jordanian-Palestinian family that must tackle its own affairs. This is what we believe. We know what we should do. We are the party that is primarily affected by the situation. Therefore, we are the ones who should express an opinion on what is to be done with this issue. Therefore, let us coordinate our steps on this basis, and then go to our Arab brothers with a single unified stand that believes in the one common destiny that explains matters and requests assistance — not a solution — from our Arab brothers.

This was another point of disagreement between us and our PLO brothers during the first dialogue which failed in April. They wanted us to go together and obtain a solution from our Arab brothers. We said: Let us agree between us first and then go together and request assistance from our Arab brothers. There was a big difference. We still insist on this opinion and they believe in it to a certain extent. However, they are under pressure from other resistance groups in the PLO. This has nothing to do with us. They are now waiting for the convocation of the PNC. We are waiting for the crystallization of this Jordanian-Palestinian stand on the bases to which I have referred. More than that, we are waiting for an Arab summit conference to convene so we can formulate an Arab stand on the basis of this Jordanian-Palestinian stand, so we can then take it to the international arena. This is what the Jordanians and Palestinians are currently awaiting. This is approximately the framework which....

[Ash-Sharif, interrupting] We understand from this review, Your Excellency, that even now it seems that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides have not yet agreed on a clear, specific, and coordinated formula that can be presented to our Arab brothers, pending an agreement among the resistance groups on a unified stand. We are also awaiting an Arab summit to which we can present these ideas in order to secure our Arab brothers' support for our agreed stand with our Palestinian brothers.

[Ubaydat] This is true. On the other hand, it has been agreed in principle to give special importance to organizing this relationship and to coordinating it in well planned steps, within a unified plan of action in the occupied territory. We have pointed out that this is a reactivation or resumption — in fact, it is more than a mere reactivation — of the steadfastness committee's duties through a new plan and method of action. This is because changes in the occupied territories impose such a method. There has always been a Jordanian-Palestinian committee. It received funds from Arab states and it had a program of action. This program had positive as well as negative factors. It is an injustice to judge it in an absolute manner. However, the current changes in the West Bank impose deep-rooted changes in the Jordanian and PLO plan concerning the steadfastness support plan. Regrettably, this is being tied to a financial situation. The Arab lack of response is clearly apparent. We hope that the Arab position will change when our Arab brothers, who are capable of supporting this fund with a small part of what they have, realize the changes that have occurred in the occupied territory.

This is actually a very painful, sensitive subject. This subject reminds us of the stands of some Arab states on this issue — stands that cannot be justified regardless of the rumors and information about the reduction in oil sales in some of these Gulf states. Fortunately, until now, only Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are still meeting their commitments and paying their shares, as stipulated in the Arab summits, to Jordan and to this fund. [sentence as heard] As for the rest of these states, many things have to be said about this. We may discuss them on other occasion.

[Tariq Masarwah] On the issue of steadfastness — although it is to some extent a domestic issue, and we are discussing Arab and international issues — definitely, some Arab states officially say that the reduction of oil sales might affect their contribution to supporting people in the West Bank. Yet, behind the scenes they say that there is a misuse of support funds. Can the government, and of course the PLO, issue an annual budget which would clarify the spendings? This is because some Arab states use special phrases in inter-governmental contacts, but behind the scenes they use language that casts doubt and which may save them from the pressure of the masses.

[Ubaydat] In fact, this proves my point that this subject is a painful, embarrassing, and sensitive one. However, as far as I know, I have never heard from any Arab state that pays for this steadfastness fund any reference — directly or indirectly —to this issue of casting doubt about the expenditures from this fund or about the misappropriation of funds. However, if the press has special sources and methods to deal with such leaks, this is something else.

The issue goes beyond these formalities. I say formalities, because I may differ with the PLO representative on how this sum of money is spent in the occupied territory. Within this subject, we cannot forget that some people, even inside the occupied territory, consider themselves to be harmed because they do not receive assistance. Therefore, it is easy to level accusations. Many accusations were leveled against the committee. They were obscure and general accusations. The personal initiatives of the committee at that time — there are those who are authorized to spend from each side — might have been incorrect. There might have been confusion in priorities. There might have been some moodiness or incorrect estimates. However, what they spend is presented to the entire committee. It is audited and approved. There is a budget. The Arab brothers who pay may see the details of this budget if they want. There is nothing secret.

However, I think the issue goes beyond this. I expect that there is a lack of understanding of the situation in the occupied

territory. Therefore, I would like to deal with the issue from another positive angle. There must be a joint Jordanian- Palestinian move toward these states. There should be a true picture of the situation in the occupied territory, of the size of this support, and of the importance of any kind of support in the occupied territories. We receive very limited funds from these states. They are very small compared with our Arab brothers' revenues, but are of tremendous importance to our people in the occupied territory. Therefore, the Jordanian-Palestinian committee has again begun another approach to our Arab brothers. During the coming weeks, the committee will go to various places in order to clarify the pciture and to ask our brothers to continue meeting their commitments because there is a dire need for their support.

I am fully confident that our brothers will not let us down and will always remain positive in their attitude. There could have been difficult circumstances for both of us, or there could have been a tepidness in the committee's activity as a result of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. This could be another factor. However, the continuation of the situation as before is not justified.

[Amin] If you permit me to touch on another topic — namely, relations with Syria. It has been said that there is an undeclared dialogue between Jordan and Syria. If this dialogue actually exists, will you please confirm it. Is it between two sides or is it comprehensive in the Arab east — I mean, is Iraq included in this dialogue?

['Ubaydat] Brother Muhammad, in fact, may I correct your question. There has been no past dialogue that was later severed. There have been Jordanian-Syrian relations within limits known to everyone. These relations developed within the framework of Jordanian-Syrian coordination and integration that we witnessed for years. This development was actually interpreted into a joint action, which included the travel of individuals, coordination on the border, unified laws for some economic interests of both the Jordanian and Syrian peoples, joint ventures, transportation companies, and joint economic projects. These relations also developed into those of political coordination. The exchanged visits intensified and several units were established to coordinate this integration between Jordan and Syria. These units were administrative, organizational, legislative, and other.

What took place is that this Jordanian-Syrian coordination halted within certain limits. Joint political coordination, such as the Jordanian-Syrian meetings on some laws concerning both Jordan and Syria, stopped. Some of these laws were economic, social, educational, cultural, and other. As a result of the discord that took place between Jordan and Syria, which came out in the open after being restricted to meetings, Jordan and Syria exchanged accusations. The situation developed to the extent of massing Syrian forces on the Jordanian border before the Arab summit was held in Amman in 1980. There were accusations exchanged claiming that Jordan was interfering in Syria's domestic affairs, and so on.

We lived through this story together, and both Jordan and Syria made great efforts. It harmed Jordanian-Syrian relations, and consequently harmed inter-Arab relations because the whole process was not just restricted to Jordan and Syria. There were various alliances and stands, as well as right or wrong interpretations. The situation became complicated following the deterioration of the Iraqi-Iranian war, because matters changed and new reasons were created. This is in addition to the developments in the Lebanese situation. All of these factors affected each other. There had been a conflict of interests and complications that surpassed regional differences between Jordan and Syria on certain domestic affairs.

At any rate, diplomatic relations between Jordan and Syria continued and were not severed. The borders remained open, but some administrative measures were taken for the movement of individuals. These steps were considered for control purposes by the two sides — namely, for security purposes. On the other hand, Jordanian-Syrian projects such as the Jordanian-Syrian Company for Overland Transportation continued to operate and to hold scheduled, periodic meetings. The chairman of the board of directors of this company is a Syrian living in Amman, or a Jordanian whose deputy is Syrian living in Amman, and this company has premises in Amman. There is also a Jordanian-Syrian maritime company whose board of directors, chairman, and vice chairman are Syrians [as heard] living in Latakia in Syria. The two projects continued. The Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Company, the free zone, and the white cement project are continuing. Most of these economic relations are continuing within reasonable limits, which did not go beyond operating these joint ventures and promoting their productivity. The border is open, and has not closed.

The Jordanian-Syrian relationship fluctuated at times due to the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Lebanon incidents, following the announcement of the Reagan peace plan, and because of the restoration of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. There are differences between the PLO and Syria in which we do not play any part; however, Jordanian-Syrian relations were affected by these differences. The Syrian-Iraqi discord is well known and declared. It ended by Iraq being deprived of pumping its oil through Syria at a delicate and fateful time. Jordan also was affected by this relationship.

Jordan has also been affected by the situation in Lebanon as a whole and by the intervention there. We were part of this picture which prevailed in the Arab homeland and we still suffer from some of its effects. In fact, there is no complete severing of these relations. The Jordanian Embassy exists in Damascus and the Syrian Embassy exists in Amman. There is nothing new on this subject. There may have been some contacts last year on the security level in order to organize some things, or to discuss some matters, as an attempt from both sides or a readiness by both sides to contain or limit some problems. This has happened. However, it has not continued, because there is nothing new as far as we were concerned, save for the continuation of some activities which undermine Jordan's security. These activities are carried out by groups residing inside Syria, patronized by Syria, or allied with it, especially some of the Palestinian resistance groups and some people who have left the Iraqi arena and taken Damascus as a base. I have pointed to some of these problems in my previous interview.

We have not participated in any propaganda camapign for at least 4 months in the belief that this may at first, and we hope

that it will, help to find a suitable atmosphere for convening an Arab summit conference. We are talking about Arab solidarity. We do not want to focus on any negative aspect in these relations. We do not want to exploit any secondary point of difference. We leave it to our brothers in Syria to deal with us in a similar manner. This is why we have been determined to not answer any propaganda attack and to leave the assessment of such attacks to the people in Jordan and Syria and to our Arab brothers. It seems to me now that this subject is at a minimal level. I personally have not heard about any new substantial matters from Syrian media. This is the atmosphere through which we move. We are concerned with being true with ourselves in any steps we take or do not take in order to help create a suitable atmosphere for convening an Arab summit. This is because we live on Arab solidarity.

[Amin] Sir, in fact, Syrian officials, according to their view of this matter, specify that the difference between Syria and Jordan is U.S. policy in the region. What is your reply to this?

['Ubaydat] U.S. policy in the region— in fact, this may be primarily termed as intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. The United States is a superpower, as the Soviet Union is great, or, rather, a superpower. I do not think any Arab country logically has the right to base its relations with another Arab country on the fact that that country has relations with the United States. This would give the same right to the other country and it might do the same. This subject cannot be evaluated or decided on by one country in an absolute and individual manner without the other Arab countries. Consequently, it cannot judge the march of a country from the beginning to the end just because there is U.S. policy in the region which may be right or wrong, which may conspire or fail, which may not see its interests in the Arab homeland in a sound manner, or which may take positions supporting an enemy of the Arab nation which is also the enemy of Jordan before anybody else, because Jordan is harmed by this enemy before anybody else. There is no need to prove this.

To reply to this statement as if it were true is not difficult, but complicated. Secondly, I think that Syrian-U.S. relations are not at such a low level that Jordan has the right to discuss this. Jordan may be harmed by its U.S. relations more than any other country because we have had traditional relations with the West, particularly with the United States. This is not a secret for anyone. The Arab citizen, or any Arab official, can evaluate this harm — at least from his majesty the king's latest statements which are not hidden from any well-informed person. I do not find myself obliged to comment any further on this question. However, I think the subject is multifacited and has other dimensions.

[Ash-Sharif] Your comments on relations with Syria lead us to one of the central, yet regrettable, points of difference with the Syrian brothers — namely, the approach to the Iraqi-Iranian war. We are all aware of the victims of this war, of the funds which have been wasted in it, and of the Arab and international desire to end this war. His majesty has always stressed the importance of stopping this mad war and has called on the two sides to solve the dispute peacefully. It seems that to date — as ordinary people think — no peaceful solutions have been proposed to end this war. We have heard that Egypt has prepared a plan, which it will present to the nonaligned states, the Arab states, and the states that are concerned with the war in an attempt to end this war. We are aware that Algeria made an initiative — one aspect of which is the Algerian minister's visit to Amman. It is said that one of the issues discussed was the Iraqi-Iranian war. What is new in this war? Is there hope that it will end?

['Ubaydat] In fact, solutions for the Iraqi-Iranian war have been proposed. It is not correct to say that there are no solutions. However, there is no acceptance of these solutions. The Islamic states, the Nonaligned Movement states, and later the Egyptian, Algerian, and Gulf mediation efforts, proposed solutions, but there was no acceptance by the Iranian side. Regrettably, the new thing in this war is that no progress has been realized in terms of the Iranian-Iraqi war. I personally do not believe that any solutions will succeed if they are the same as the ones proposed so far.

As far as I know, the Iranian viewpoint rejects the Arab mediations. They think that every Arab state is party to this war. Syria has special relations with Iran, but from the Arab viewpoint Syria must interfere and do something to end the war. However, on no occasion have I found Syria a party to any solution that has been presented to the Iraqis and Iranians. This is because Syria and Iraq do not have normal relations. It was hoped that Algeria would play a role, but it seems that this role is very limited and subject to many circumstances, such as inter-Arab relations and misunderstandings.

The Arab states' failure to form a unified view that may be presented to the Islamic nation, the West, and the East, was instrumental in foiling any separate plan by any Arab state. The Arabs have failed to form a unified opinion on the war, an opinion that says: This is our opinion. This opinion would have been backed by the Islamic nation. The Arabs have failed to do this at the At-Ta'if conference — or maybe it was after this conference or before it, I am not sure when. Here we go back to Arab stands, to Arab solidarity, and summits. Therefore, the other parties have failed in their individual endeavors.

The picture is now very clear. There are Iranian attempts to mass the greatest possible force opposite the Iraqi forces east of Basra. There are desperate attempts to reach the Baghdad-Basra highway, and hence to isolate Basra from the central government in Baghdad and create a new fait accompli in the entire Arab Gulf area. The Iraqis are determined to maintain all of their defense capabilities on the Iraqi side in order to beat back the Iranian aggression. Everyone is waiting for the main concentration which is said to be greater than all other concentrations. This is the current picture. No force can stop this war except the changes on the ground. These changes will decide how the war will end.

But the question you asked seems to me is will this war end if the Iranian aggression is able to achieve something in the Iraqi territories. We do not imagine that the Iraqis will accomplish anything in Iranian territory — that is, defeat the Iranians inside their territory. This is because Iraq is defending its border and land within its international border. Thus, Iraq has been in a position of legally defending itself for many years. What could be imagined is that the Iranian forces — God forbid — may occupy part of Iraq and defeat the Iraqi forces. In this case, the

Iraqi-Iranian war would not end, but a new war would begin. This is the worst a person can imagine. Thus, we always return to this point and evaluate the stands of the Arab countries that are politically or financially capable, in order to see what they can do toward this war. From this premise stems the need for the long awaited Arab meeting. We are in need of an Arab summit. This topic is not restricted only to Iraq, but is related to the Arab region's future for many years to come.

The most serious thing is that what is feared might happen may actually take place. All of us would then face a new reality as a result of Arab indifference, negligence, and escape from reality. These negative aspects constitute the deteriorating Arab situation and the relinquishment of agreements and Arab summit resolutions at a time when grave events are appearing in the Arab arena. These dangers are embodied in the results of the Iraqi-Iranian war. I expect that we will face a new situation, that another sectarian war will flare up in the region. This situation reminds us of the situation in Lebanon and how this imagination can be proved. The sectarian war in Lebanon is the best proof of the extent of the complications and tribulations that will face the Arab and Islamic nation if the Iraqi front collapses as a result of the current Arab stand and international silence.

If there is no Arab stand, we must not hope for a European stand. Logically, we cannot speak about an effective international stand in favor of Arab rights. Thus, the Arab-Islamic identity in this region will be threatened if the Khomeyni theory succeeds in penetrating the Arab homeland. We must not be at all lenient on this subject. We do not speak here about Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran, or the Islamic Iranian people. What we mean here is the Khomeyniite theory which is currently dominant in Iran. This theory voices sectarian fanaticism which only yields more sectarian fanaticism and discord. It cannot yield love or unity. Therefore, our Arab and Islamic identity is threatened in this region. Our entire existence and cultural identity are also threatened. Consequently, we will find ourselves facing an arena of sectarianism.

In fact, this theory is in harmony with the Zionist plan, because the Jews are part of these sects. This is the greatest danger that we may face. Therefore, the citizen becomes very anxious when he sees that the Arabs are not able to hold a summit. What circumstances more grave than the present circumstances can take place that necessitate holding an Arab summit? We still hope that the Arab summit will convene. We in Jordan are continuously seeking to hold this summit because we are a part of the Arab nation, facing an enemy whose threats affect us directly before anybody else.

We are defending the longest line of confrontation with the enemy, and I am afraid that our brothers in the Arab homeland have begun to miss the real meaning of this confrontation. They may think that this reality is not existing. In fact, it is the only prominent reality in this region.

Therefore, we are hoping that the Arab summit will be held, that contacts will precede it, and that delegations will originate from Jordan on all levels in order to bolster steadfastness, the Arab stand, the international situation, and the Jordanian stand. We hope that our Arab brothers will recall the realities of the past and the present and will look for the future in order to be able to do something. This is what we hope.

[Ash-Sharif] Your Excellency, what greatly astonishes people is this general state of numbness dominating the Arab region. Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran war: All these catastrophes that have so far befallen the Arab nation have failed to make some Arab leaders see the importance of a mere meeting to discuss how to cope with the challenges posed by Israel, Iran, and others. What is your explanation of this state? Is it some kind of introvertedness? Internal concerns preoccupying the Arab countries from the main concerns? Or is it evasion of responsibility? Jordan is making endeavors, sending envoys, addressing messages, appealing, and sounding the alarm. What is the cause of our failure to convene an Arab summit? This summit has been postponed for the third time, and there is no guarantee that we are going to see this summit to which, as I understood from Your Excellency, we attach great hopes in achieving a stand that will stop the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran and formulate a unified strategy for confronting the Israeli danger of swallowing up the occupied territories. What is the cause of the continuous postponement of the Arab summit conference and the general state of paralysis dominating the region? How can this problem be solved?

['Ubaydat] I believe, sir, that I have spoken enough. Any further talk will only prejudice my position as an official. We have said that some Arab leaders are indifferent. We also said that this indifference has led to evasion and to a completely negative attitude which could be said to be the main cause for the current bad situation. We are in a situation where we are beginning to doubt whether some of our brothers are able to do anything. Fortunately, however, we still have confidence that some leaders who see this danger may still be able to influence the rest and thus to convene the Arab summit. Any talk about exploiting the European arena to serve our central issue — the Palestine question — will be like plowing the sea unless the Arab world and the Arab states deal with the European stand on the basis of equality and mutual interests.

There is a political stand and there are economic interests. The latter must be exploited to obtain the former. We must not separate the two. The European states themselves, singly and collectively, speak to us in this logic. They say: You are still not in any position to talk to us in a manner that will prompt us — before the world public, our own people and the superpowers such as the United States — to take action. The European states are telling us to do this and yet we are unable to adopt a stand. If we cannot adopt this stand, then they will not be able to do anything for us. Taking action in the international arena through the European arena is important, but taking action in the Arab arena is even more important. This subject is related to Arab economic ability and its effect on the European political stand. This is what is required. We must deal with Europe as a single unit, not as separate states solving their small problems. This will only further complicate the matter, make the solution more distant, and consequently split us more, reduce our ability to cope with events, and lead to our extinction.

[Masarwah] Allow me, Mr Prime Minister, to indulge in some theoretical luxury. Arab action is connected with Arab ideology and Arab nationalism. The first definition of Arab nationalism

in modern times was adopted by the Arab League. It was later proved that the British were behind this definition in order to contain the Arab unity movement. Arab nationalism took another form through the Nasirite call to reactivate Arab nationalism, which ended in 1967. Then came the idea of Arab solidarity, whcih we have never defined in a sound manner. However, the most important aspect of the phase of Arab solidarity was the oil boom and the escalation of Arab oil as political power. It seems that the oil power was able to create an Arab stand. During his time, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir used to call for an Arab summit. Within 24 hours the responses would arrive and an Arab summit was held. Now we have the power of wealth rather than the power of revolution. The wealth revolution is currently unable to gather the Arab world. It is not forming a polarizing Arab power. In your opinion — and I think you have theoretical answers to this — what are your views on the moving forces?

Egypt now is tied to certain political stands. Iraq is tied to a certain military position. What are your views concerning an Arab motive force — the force which 'Abd an-Nasir once possessed, the force which King Faysal possessed when oil had an international weight? What is the required motive force now? You mentioned in a very earnest, painful manner the Iraqi and Lebanese positions, the positions in the West Bank, Gaza, and the Arab occupied territories. You mentioned the state of Arab impotence, the state of the sponge from which you can cut a part and the other part does not feel any pain. What new motive force do you envisage for the Arab world?

['Ubaydat] Undoubtedly, these problems from which we are all suffering, the complications of the situation, the world states' approach to our region, and the international polarization in it must excite the awareness of the Arab people. We speak of the official stands as isolated from the ferment which is going on inside the Arab homeland. The ferment within the Arab masses all over the Arab homeland has not stopped. It expresses itself sometimes in a rational manner and sometimes in a rebellious manner. It appears in the form of uprisings. Sometimes they take the form of intellectual struggles. As a whole, all of these symptoms are an expression of this ferment. They are a form of protest against some official stands in some Arab states and against the slogans of some regimes. They are the real indications of what the results tomorrow or the day after will be.

This ferment does not come out of a vacuum. It comes out of the fear of danger. It expresses a broad base of the Arab masses' feelings that their identity is threatened. Regardless of the personal initiatives on the nature of this identity under various circumstances and in various political climates, the feeling of danger is the motive. In fact, I do not find anything other than this that may prompt changes in stands. The only exception, perhaps, is that if an event or evil spreads in some part of the Arab homeland, it will draw the attention of the other regimes to the fact that this evil is about to reach them. Hence, they are not very far from the results of this struggle. Therefore, they must revise their position.

I regret that this is the only hope. However, this is the real situation. As I said, the Arab nation is watched by the world in all the good and bad aspects. There is a challenge. There is still a hope that the Arab leaderships on their various levels will be awakened, will respond, and will lay aside their differences. I hope that this will be realized. In fact, there is much to be said about this — Arab relations with the world and the great failure of these relations. These relations are not successful; if they were, our situation would improve at least a bit.

[Amin] Concerning Arab relations, what is the form of our relations with Egypt? What should Egypt do so that our relations return to normal? What should we do so that our relations return to normal?

['Ubaydat] We all know Egypt's position after the Camp David agreement. President as-Sadat's personal political initiative created a certain political situation in Egypt. It created an internal economic situation of certain dimensions. On the international level, there are commitments and documents which we as Arabs view as limiting Egypt's moves toward the Arab world and its ability to make contributions. The picture changed a little following the appearance of the new political leadership in Egypt and following the restoration of Egyptian territory to Egypt. Now, the fact remains that this territory was occupied not for its own sake, but for the sake of the Palestinian qeustion, in the same way as the Golan Heights were occupied for the sake of the Palestinian cause. Egyptian territory was restored to Egyptian sovereignty, but the Palestinian cause remains as it is. Sinai and the Golan were lost because of the Palestinian problem. Sinai returned, but the Golan and the Palestinian territories remained mortgaged.

Egypt's political and military weights are known in the Arab world. Its resources, manpower, and economic strength are known. All of this is shaken. Egypt now wants to return to the Arab nation in one way or another. The Arab nation is aware of its need for Egypt and vice versa. It is part of the Arab nation. Regardless of the various political ideologies, the Arab nation decided to take a certain stand toward Egypt after the Camp David agreements. This was during the Baghdad summit. However, the Arab nation viewed the matter differently. It considered the Egyptian people and their interests as part of the Arab people and their interests. There were various stands toward Egypt, and hence various solutions. The change of the political leadership in Egypt gave this leadership some flexibility. The Arab situation became more complex after the Lebanese crisis and the Iraqi-Iranian war. It became clear that Egypt should be, as it had been before, an effective force in the Arab nation.

Now there are signs of a possibility for Egypt to restore its Arab position, to return as before. From the practical, technical viewpoint, there are still constraints to Egypt's entry into the Arab League, into the Arab summits, and in the Arab march. There are great political constraints. Egypt is tied by economic chains. Frankly, if we perhaps ask it to abandon a certain position, this means asking it to abandon several billions which Egypt is not sure of regaining from the Arab nation. The issue is a very sensitive one. However, in the final analysis, if we reach an Arab decision that is aware of this situation and of Egypt's role, then we may help Egypt get rid of these chains and hence pool its resources with Arab resources — something which we need to do.

We in Jordan, as part of the Arab homeland, are one of the first to be negatively affected by the Camp David agreements. We

were affected by the U.S. and other pressures in terms of the attempts to involve us in such agreements at that time. We can claim that we are very much aware of the Arabs' need for Egypt and of Egypt's need for the Arabs. Hence, we are very cautious in our approach toward this issue, but we are aware of the need to do something continuously in this regard. Therefore, Jordan has always been the first to attempt to not only tame the Arab position, but convince the Arab brothers to view Egypt seriously because of the new factors, particularly after the change in leadership.

Until when will Egypt stay away? In fact, until when will Israel and the forces behind it be able to keep Egypt away from the Arab world? This depends on us. We may differ or agree in opinion with some of our Arab brothers, but the truth is that this is a big challenge for us and for Egypt. We must cooperate bilaterally and collectively on the pan-Arab level so Egypt can get closer to the Arab world. This is possible and some signs are already clear. These signs have encouraged certain Arab sides to take reciprocal steps. Egypt's return to the Islamic conference was a step on the correct path. The return of certain trade and economic relations — we restored these relations which were frozen for some time with Egypt, and other Arab states also restored them in one form or another — is also a step on the correct path. The movement of individuals and the subject of political relations [sentence as heard]. There are mutual stands. Actually, there is not an integral Arab stand on Egypt's return; there are only separate stands which vary according to need. Iraq has a well known stand. Jordan also has a stand. Other Arab states in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula also have stands.

However, the required stand, which calls for studied steps in the interest of the Arab nation and Egypt, has not yet been crystallized. This stand awaits an Arab summit conference. Therefore, the summit is essential for reaching agreement on positive steps in this direction. The recent measures which Egypt took against those countries that moved their embassies to Jerusalem were good measures, but not everything. Still, they are initial gains which should be beneficially developed. We must not overburden Egypt or reduce the importance of the steps it takes. There can be more than one channel with Egypt. We in Jordan will not hesitate to resurrect any agreement with Egypt that will serve the interests of the Jordanian and Egyptian peoples. We will develop any project in our interest — whether on the ground or in the air — in bilateral contacts, trade exchange, various contacts, and political coordination. We will not be ashamed to take such steps. We will give them their just due. Relations with Egypt are almost in existence. The only missing thing is the formality of a Jordanian ambassador in Cairo and an Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

I will not be hiding the truth if I say that the intensification of Jordanian-Egyptian contacts after President Husni Mubarak's assumption of power in Egypt, the recent development of events in the region, Egypt's attitude toward the Arab nation, especially the Iraq-Iran war which is a positive attitude, the recent steps Egypt has taken in the direction of the Arab nation, and our mutual need for one another are all established facts which must not be slighted. We are in the process of promoting this relationship until it reaches the ideal situation, which we believe will serve the interests of Jordan and Egypt, and consequently the interests of Arab nation.

This talk may sound emotional or appear to be overlooking the facts, but I cannot see any reason why we should not consolidate our relations with Egypt and try hard to bring Egypt closer to the Arab nation. I am sorry to say that even the U.S. reaction to any Egyptian move toward the Arabs is negative. We must not be deceived by this matter. We must evaluate it properly and ask why. I do not think that Israel and those behind it would like Egypt to again think with an Arab mentality and consider Arab interests. They want its continued isolation. If we clearly understand this, we will be able to develop our work in the direction of Egypt's return to the Arab homeland for their best mutual interests. We must not adhere to vague slogans and stands. I do not want to speak about the struggle between the centers of power or leaderships in the Arab world, or on the return or nonreturn of Egypt's leadership. The question concerns Egypt's weight. The entire Arab leadership is nonexistent. Nobody has the right to claim that there is an effective Arab leadership. We need to form an Arab leadership that unites, and one that knows its duties and responsibilities. Egypt is a basic element in this concept. Egypt also needs the Arab nation's encouragement so that it can move toward us. It cannot do that alone.

[Amin] Can we say that hampering any Arab summit or obstructing the adoption of a unified Arab stand coincides with Israel's intention to keep Egypt adhering to the Camp David accords?

['Ubaydat] Any Arab estrangement is in harmony with the enemy's strategy toward depriving the Arabs of adopting a stand. Israel wants nothing more than to keep Arab discord active — whether it directly seeks it or not — because this discord meets with its interests. Therefore, the objective is to solve Arab discords, because this leads to solidarity. How can an Arab country speak about Arab solidarity while it acts otherwise? We do not want Arab solidarity to become a meaningless slogan.

[Ash-Sharif] I have a question that might be the last one. I have noticed that all Arab concerns are directed toward the magic solution — namely, the Arab summit and solidarity. We agree on this matter. Every Arab citizen stresses the need for the inevitable Arab meetings and soldiarity. But sometimes the human being becomes doubtful. We are passing through a strange phase in our contemporary history, where regional interests and concerns are surpassing general concerns.

Jordan made proposals to the majority of the Arab League about amending the Arab League Charter. Has the Arab League, which was established in 1945, become out-dated and unable to deal with the current developments in the Arab homeland, which necessitate a new structure based on geographical categories under the League's umbrella, as took place in the GCC. This GCC experiment achieved good accomplishments for the Arab Gulf states. My essential question is this: Does Jordan have a strategy or an idea that can rectify this grave paralysis and disorder that has stricken the Arab homeland? For the reasons that you mentioned, it is difficult for Egypt to resume leadership without totally ridding itself of the Camp David accords. This thing seems impossible in light of the current circumstances.

Perhaps the Egyptian leadership has found it difficult to take such a step without engaging in other risks.

I believe that this subject deserves to meet Jordan's concern and conceptualization — Jordan which has always been the first side to feel the dangers and to propose solutions to them. Can the Arab League continue to function with its present structure? Is there any hope for developing it? We believe that solving problems is subject to achieving Arab solidarity and holding an Arab summit. Regretfully, all indications point to the fact that there seem to be no signs of holding this summit soon, while the dangers are increasing in a manner that creates great anxiety. I wonder whether this concern preoccupies Jordanian thinking and Jordanian leadership as well as Your Excellency?

['Ubaydat] There is no other concern that preoccupies Jordanian thinking and Jordanian leadership than this concern, because when we speak about Arab solidarity and a summit we are not speaking only about slogans. Also, when we speak about the Arab League, its responsibilities and its inactivity in its present status in taking more positive steps in order to patch up differences, draw up a plan, and place Arab leaderships before their responsibilities, we say it out of our concern.

The Arab League itself is not the target of blame, neither are the Arab summits. These are occasions on which we propose solutions because of the current dangers. When we take a move in the Arab arena in order to explain the dangers threatening us, we do so because we are the people most affected by these dangers. When we take a move on a bilateral basis, which some parties consider as a move to create certain axes, we believe that such moves are better than nothing. One day we move toward Egypt, the next day toward Iraq, then toward Syria, Morocco, the Gulf states and so on. If our moves stop and those of others also stop, we will not be able to claim that we have an alternate plan.

All of our moves are intended to achieve intrinsic Arab strength. This strength is not calculated by the number of guns directed at the Zionist enemy. The elements of this strength are well known, various, and numerous. Even when we speak about the Arab summit and solidarity, we do so while we have in mind the intrinsic Arab strength and how can we restore it. There is no alternative. We move toward peace in the international arena, and at the same time we move toward building the intrinsic Arab strength. How can we rebuild this strength without moving toward the Arabs and holding inter-Arab meetings — meetings that express different views but have a minimum of consensus that feels the common danger and takes action toward it. This is what we are actually moving to fulfill. Every responsible Arab feels greatly frustrated when he moves from the Arab homeland to the international arena where he is obliged to talk to the U.S., the USSR, and the European leaderships. This is the problem.

[Ash-Sharif] Following the great despair recently about the United States' ability or intention to play a constructive role in achieving peace in the Middle East, the Jordanian pressure during the past months centered on trying to hold an international conference to solve the Middle East crisis. How do you value the chances for the success of this trend, particularly since it has been rejected by the United States and Israel and since we heard that Britain and the FRG have reservations on this subject. What are the chances of success for this call?

['Ubaydat] I believe that we must separate the importance of the international conference and the possibility of it convening. This conference's importance to us has become a priority, following the failure of all previous initiatives and also following the United States' failure to be a partner, not a mediator, in an effective peace process. In fact, I do not consider the word mediator an accurate expression. Concerning the holding of this international conference, I repeat that the possibility of it convening will be strengthened with the presence of an Arab stand. I do not believe that there is another alternative.

[Masarwah] Following the U.S. failure to provide us with weapons....

['Ubaydat, interrupting] Weapons?

[Masarwah] Yes. In an area where our neighbors have international allies, don't you, Mr Prime Minister, feel that your work is difficult since Jordan does not have allies? Don't you feel sometimes that you are desolate, especially when your natural ally, the Arab nation, is in the situation we have just described. Don't you feel concerned that Jordan is without allies?

['Ubaydat, laughing] It seems, sir, we have become used to this slightly difficult atmosphere. Actually, I do not feel any fear or concern. I only feel the burden of responsibility. I believe that every Jordanian and Arab who understands Jordan's position shares this feeling with me. Regarding the subject of alliances, I will not be telling anything new if I say that Jordan has not considered alliances in the least. His majesty the king has always voiced this stand in Jordan, in the Arab world, in summit conferences, on different occasions and after every major event experienced by the Arab nation — beginning with the diversion of the Jordan River waters and ending with the occupation of Lebanon. Before that it was the loss of the West Bank and the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war. All of these events always confirmed the soundness of the Jordanian theory, the theory of the school which was founded by his majesty the king. When we talk about alliances, we talk about polarization. It was clear that Jordan's policy was always that the Arab nation should not be a part of international polarization. Unfortunately, this is only possible when there is....

[Masarwah, interrupting] A natural ally.

['Ubaydat] Exactly, a natural ally. A natural ally means that you should be your own ally. You must have the elements of intrinsic power that you can motivate and put forth in the international arena. Therefore, after the recent developments in Jordanian-U.S. relationship [sentence as heard]. Actually, it is not correct to say after the United States has failed to give arms to Jordan. Not all of the arms are Western. True, we essentially depend on Western arms, but we have some Eastern weapons. Not all of our weapons come from a U.S. source; however, most of these weapons are from Western sources, particularly the U.S. source. The subject that led to the recent developments in U.S.-Jordanian relations was not just weapons. However, the weapons were the straw that could have broken the camel's back. There

were other stands that preceded the issue. But since we are on the subject of arms, I say that I do not believe that Jordan will stand by and wait for long periods until the Americans reconsider their position on the subject of arms to Jordan. Whenever Jordan feels that the arms have become a subject of compromise and might take too long to arrive, it will seek alternative sources for this type of arms.

The question is no longer one of threatening one side by saying that we will obtain arms from another side, or telling anyone in the Arab homeland or elsewhere that we will jump from the U.S. lap to the USSR lap. No, the subject is a practical and technical one concerning Jordan's capability, relations, and feelings toward itself and its responsibility toward its people and cause.

This has become a natural thing which must be understood by the Americans and by others who might withhold any type of weapons —which we can obtain from any other state. This must be clearly understood. This is not a political maneuver or a putting out of feelers. Indeed, this is how Jordan behaved. In the past years, the United States failed to provide us with air defense units despite all the contacts. We turned to the USSR and bought an air defense system. This system will be completed to the extent that we believe it will help Jordan to defend itself. Regarding the subject of the recent arms which were withheld to Jordan in one way or another, due to the position of the Congress, the USSR, all the Western states, and also the United States immediately knew that we began contacts to obtain similar weapons. There were positive steps and also positive responses from almost everyone. We are waiting for this deal to be completed. This subject is a natural thing to us. It is not part of a political maneuver, but political action.

[Amin] Sir, we have taken much of your time. We thank you very much for responding to the program's invitation for the second time. We hope to meet again with the brother citizens. Many thanks to His Excellency Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

['Ubaydat] I thank you.

[Amin] I also thank our two colleagues, Mahmud ash-Sharif, general manager and editor in chief of *AD-DUSTUR*, and Tariq Masarwah, the well known political columnist from *AR-RA'Y*.

Committee Drafts Government Policy Statement 14 May

Karami Notes Unanimous Agreement

NC141438 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts] The government policy statement was drafted today, removing a major obstacle in the way of the new government. The text of this statement was approved by the [ministerial] committee during its meeting in the Military Court this afternoon. Lengthy discussions took place during this meeting, few details of which have been revealed. We have learned, however, that there was general agreement concerning the broad lines, which will help the government to act as a permanent dialogue conference capable of dealing with the ongoing problems in depth. After the meeting, Prime Minister Rashid Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The ministerial committee entrusted with preparing the government policy statement — which will be submitted to the Cabinet on Wednesday [16 May] — met in a positive atmosphere and reached an agreement on the draft statement. This agreement should give us hope because it symbolizes the solid will of the government to realize the people's aspirations of stability, security, and peace. These aspirations, together with liberation, constitute our main objectives for bringing Lebanon back to normal.

I would like to mention the security flareups which occur now and then. There is no justification for these flareups; we all denounce them because of the extra bloodshed, destruction, and havoc they involve — matters that we can no longer tolerate or accept.

If what some people claim is true, if we tend to sometimes disagree on the issues facing us, we should resort to democratic dialogue in order to reach agreement on what is best for Lebanon. Those who kindle the security situation are those who do not want to see us reach agreement. What shall we do, then? We are displeased over what our people are suffering. We wish to apologize to our people. Meanwhile, we promise them that some measures will be taken — well thought-out measures. We hope these measures will bring an end to our hardships and problems. If this happens, we will achieve the major hope of the Lebanese; namely, security.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, did the members of the ministerial committee unanimously agree on the government policy statement?

[Karami] This is what I said. I reiterate: There was unanimous and complete agreement on every point and every word mentioned in this statement.

[Reporter] Were there any particularly interesting suggestions put forward by the committee members or by others?

[Karami] A draft was submitted, discussed, and approved. This is all I can disclose.

[Reporter] [Former] President Sham'un disclosed that the statement touches on the situation in the south and in the western Al-Biqa' valley.

[Karami] I said it touches on liberation. This means the south and the western Al-Biqa' valley.

[Reporter] Does the government statement deal with the reopening of the crossing points, the airport, the port, etc?

[Karami] When I speak about security and the return to normalcy, I mean all this. [end recording]

Further on Committee Meeting

NC141450 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1413 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts] The ministerial committee set up to formulate a draft of the policy statement of the Cabinet reached full agreement on proposals for the objectives of the government during its 2-hour meeting held today at the Military Court building near the National Museum. The draft statement will now go to the Cabinet for approval and the Cabinet will then seek a parliamentary vote of confidence on the basis of the statement.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami chaired the committee meeting at the Military Court building today, which was attended by Finance and Housing Minister Camille Sham'un; the minister of state for South Lebanon and reconstruction, hydroelectric resources, and justice, Nabih Birri; and Information and Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf. Committee member Education and Labor Minister Salim al-Huss was absent due to his short trip to the United States.

Strict security measure were enforced around the building and its vicinity and Army and security forces mounted patrols while troops took up positions on the rooftops of surrounding buildings.

Informed sources said that a spirit of understanding prevailed at the meeting on all the issues discussed, especially the issue of the occupation of the south and western Al-Biqa', and the establishing of law and order.

Prior to the meeting President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami met at the B'abda Palace. The prime minister flew to B'abda on a military helicopter from West Beirut and then the two men met for 2 hours to discuss the draft policy statement, after which the prime minister emerged from the palace and went directly to the Military Court building where Ministers Sham'un, Birri, and Skaf were waiting.

The committee discussed every article of the draft statement which had been drawn up by former premier Al-Huss prior to his departure yesterday to the United States to deliver lectures on Lebanon at two important American universities.

On emerging from the committee meeting at 1230 in the afternoon, Prime Minister Karami said that the meeting was positive and agreement was reached on a draft statement. Mr

Birri said that agreement was full and positive and on the issue of the south and there was complete understanding. Mr Sham'un said that there were no differences of opinion, especially on the issue of the south and western Al-Biqa'. He stressed that views were unanimous and fully understanding.

Reportage on Security Situation, Cease-Fire Attempts

Over 100 Killed, Wounded in Shelling

NC122116 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The result of tonight's savage shelling of the western quarters of Beirut and the southern suburb was over 100 killed or wounded. These casualties were taken to the hospitals of Beirut and the southern suburb. The crazy shelling caused a massacre in the Al-Irshad secondary school in Burj Abu Haydar — which was the target of incendiary shells — where a large number of evacuees are living. A large fire broke out in the school. Many were killed or wounded, and over 40 cars were burned.

Violent Fighting Subsides 13 May

NC130555 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The violent fighting which broke out yesterday afternoon in Beirut subsided at 0330 today. Scores of people were killed and about 100 others were wounded in the fighting. According to official reports, 16 people were killed and 70 others were wounded.

As soon as the children of Lebanon ended their protest demonstration against the war in the Al-Hamra area and as soon as Minister Nabih Birri called for a firm position toward the Israeli liaison office in Ad-Dubayyah, the people manning the artillery batteries opened up with a heavy barrage, which was the most serious since last Saturdays carnage which killed 24 people and wounded 120 others.

The shelling last night was particularly heavy in the Hayy al-Lija area in Al-Musaytibah, where six people were killed. Correspondents reported that the Al-Manarah area also came under violent shellfire. The citizens were seen rushing to take shelter. Five citizens from one family were killed in Burj Abu Haydar at a school where they took refuge.

The contact areas were also hit. The people manning the artillery batteries persisted in shelling the observers positions, wounding at least three observers, who could not be taken to the hospital.

Eyewitnesses said fires broke out in Burj Abu Haydar. Fire engines and ambulances were seen speeding on the streets. The ambulances were seen evacuating children bleeding as a result of their wounds.

Beirut's southern suburb had a share of the shelling, which killed a number of innocent citizens. The shelling also extended to Ad-Dubayyah, where a woman was killed. Fire broke out in two hospitals in West Beirut. The hospitals in the two sectors of Beirut called on the citizens to donate blood to treat the many casualties. A hospital in the Sabra area was also hit.

The calls for a cease-fire did not succeed. Reports said there were attempts to advance in the Bisharah al-Khuri and the commercial center areas. The disengagement force was compelled to withdraw from many buildings to avoid the shelling and sniper fire. Ambulance sirens continued to be heard in most quarters. Reports said there were many fires which broke out last night.

Observers Urged To Name Culprits

NC131126 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces today called on the French and Lebanese cease-fire observers to expose the side that is violating the cease-fire and starting the random shelling of the residential areas. The source called on the observers to make these reports public in order to clarify this issue officially and [show] how much time elapses before the forces in the eastern area [of Beirut] retaliate against the sources of this shelling. The responsible source in the Lebanese Forces called on the citizens not to heed what some of the leftist papers published in the western sector — where the various organizations have control — are saying. Neither the Lebanese Forces nor the Lebanese Army have started the shelling. It was the eastern sector that came first under shelling and without any reason.

Birri Trying To Damage Rapprochement

NC131148 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Informed political sources said this afternoon that the shelling and military escalation carried out by various organizations, basically by the Amal Movement, have been premeditated. They are part of a series of political and military complexities that began with the cabinet issue and the distribution of portfolios, the question of the venue for the cabinet session, Nabih Birri's refusal to discuss security and political issues before opening the army file, and the news conference held by Birri yesterday which was followed by the large-scale security deterioration. These sources added that the Shi'ite Amal Movement through this escalation is trying to harm the Christian-Druze rapprochement, the outline of which became obvious in Iqlim al-Khurrub between the Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party. The escalation is also aimed at harming the Christian-Sunni rapprochement which took place at the government level by the appointment of Rashid Karami as prime minister.

The same sources said Birri has begun to fear that he will remain as the lonely opposition in light of the cardshuffling and changing of formulas. Hence, he is trying to keep the situation explosive in order to embarrass his allies more than to harm his foes. In this context, responsible sources ask how can a responsible man like Minister Salim al-Huss, who is known for his candor and objectivity, allow himself to accuse forces affiliated with the legitimate [authority] of starting the shelling before verifying this matter.

Amal Blamed for Flareup

NC141108 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Once again Lebanon's students and children were the victims of the criminal extortionist operations which are being carried out for political gains. Today, and precisely before the meeting of the committee in charge of drafting the government's policy statement, the Amal gunmen fired shells at the East Beirut areas, aiming at schools and residential areas. They succeeded in scoring direct hits on the Al-Bisharah School in Al-Ashrafiyah, killing a 12-year student and wounding well over 20 others. They also shelled Al-Ashrafiyah, As-Sabtiyah, Al-Judaydah, Corniche an-Nahr, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, and Furn ash-Shubbak. Highly placed sources said Nabih Birri's plan to bring military pressure to bear on the government to achieve political gains will continue as long as there are no firm actions to curb his plan. The sources noted that Birri's demands are always accompanied by military actions.

Afram: Self-Defense Right

NC141241 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The commander of the Lebanese Forces Mr Fadi Afram declared today that the cease-fire agreement cannot be observed unilaterally by one side without the other, adding that there is a scheme to destroy stability and security in our region in a bid to exert pressure on our people. We strongly warn the parties behind these schemes that either security and stability will be established everywhere equally or there will be none at all. Mr Fadi Afram emphasized that the blood of children cannot be shed in vain. The Lebanese forces have avoided getting dragged into a useless fight and armed confrontation. But, said the commander of the Lebanese Forces, the Lebanese Forces have been receiving urgent calls since Saturday from the citizens to respond to the aggression. Self-defense, he said, is a sacred right.

Further on Afram Stand

NC141717 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command made the following statement: The Lebanese Forces' Command Council held its weekly meeting at its headquarters under Fadi Afram. In this meeting, the council discussed topics on the agenda and made the appropriate decisions. The council also heard several security and political reports on the current conditions, foremost on the recent incidents which mowed down scores of innocent victims, mostly children and students. In this regard, the Command Council wishes to make clear the following: 1. The Lebanese Christian people are not ready to fall victim to a daily carnage that is meant to systematically exhaust them and force them to either kneel or migrate. The Christian people are resolved to hold out and resist with all means in defense of their identity, security, and freedom. The Christian people believe that matters have reached their bottom line — it is about time to redress matters radically before popular anger sweeps those responsible for the continuation of the carnage.

The Lebanese Forces have thus far abided by the cease-fire. They have exercized the utmost self-restraint and have never fired the first shot. However, these forces declare that, from now on, they will have to violently respond forthwith to any sporadic shelling aimed at the inhabitants of East Beirut. Forewarned is forearmed.

2. The Command Council was particularly interested in the interview granted by Walid Junblatt to *MONDAY MORNING* magazine. Junblatt's admission that the situation in West Beirut is chaotic does not absolve either the Amal Movement or the Progressive Socialist Party — who claim to control West Beirut — of the responsibility for shelling East Beirut.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces welcome Junblatt's call to halt the fighting and start a dialogue. The Lebanese Forces therefore announce that they are fully prepared to enter a candid dialogue in order to redeem the homeland and to overcome the tribulation that is exacting a toll on all the Lebanese.

Committee To Establish New Posts

NC141839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee met today in the presence of all its members. The meeting was also attended by Colonel (Flotier), chairman of the French observers committee, who submitted a report on the outcome of his survey for establishing observation posts in the Al-Marfa' area, the center of Galerie Sim'an, and the Regie area. Following discussions, the committee members approved specific points in these areas where observers will be deployed. It was agreed to implement this as of 1000 Wednesday.

The committee members reviewed the deterioration in the security situation and the shelling which reached residential areas during the past 2 days, according to reports by Lebanese and French observers. The committee members agreed on measures to prevent the causes which always lead to artillery exchanges. The conferees also reviewed the role of the media regarding cease-fire violations. They urged the media to contribute to promoting a positive atmosphere.

Amal Comments on Security Deterioration

NC142043 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] A responsible source in the Amal Movement stated the following: Commenting on some private radio reports about the deterioration in the security situation, the Amal Movement affirms the following:

The movement is determined to promote calm and to defuse the situation in order to pave the way to a return to normal life, to prepare the political atmosphere in a way permitting a return to national unity, and to give the government an opportunity to resolve the main and fateful questions, particularly the question of the south.

It appears that the sides moving under the Israeli umbrella are exerting efforts to hinder a political solution in Lebanon in an attempt to gain time and to stall the main questions, hoping for favorable results in the Israeli elections. These sides are creating security incidents, particularly by shelling the residential areas in Beirut and its suburb, every time we try to arrive at definite results in one of the political subjects. In addition to their criminal military actions, these sides are waging an information campaign, even against the blood of our brothers in East Beirut, by using the Israeli method of offering sacrifices and accusing rivals in implementation of a political goal or in preparation for a military plan. These sides are creating various lies and stories.

The movement affirms to all the Lebanese, particularly our brothers in East Beirut, that it is fully committed to the cease-fire, despite all the provocations and despite the scores of victims who fell in the shelling of West Beirut and its southern suburb last week.

The movement calls upon these sides, particularly those responsible for the Army, to shoulder their responsibility in stabilizing the security situation and to stop the media games, which aim to aggravate the situation, disrupt the process of unifying the country, and make profits in the dollar game, which has become fully exposed.

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Junblatt Urges End to Shelling

NC150801 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The schools and universities in the free Christian areas will close today in denunciation of the criminal killing of children in their schools which took place yesterday in Al-Bisharah college in Al-Ashrafiyah as a result of the shelling directed from the western area of Beirut.

Regarding the strong condemnation of the crime and the decisive stands expressed by the Christian leaderships, the information media of various organizations have criticized the crime and attempted to disassociate themselves from it and to denounce it. Nabih Birri was quoted as saying that the shelling did not come from his gunmen. Walid Junblatt's circles affirmed what he said in a previous statement about the western area being a jungle.

In a statement published by *AS-SAFIR* in today's edition Minister Junblatt called for a halt to the shelling of residential areas and to be content with exchanging fire in the contact areas if we are not able now to completely stop the fighting.

Army Not Replying to Fire

NC150939 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] At 1130 today a military source made the following statement: From 0810 through 1100 today the army positions in Galerie Sim'an, At-Tayyunah, Al-Matahin, and Sodeco came under sniper fire. At 1100 a mortar shell fell near an army position in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. The army is still not replying to the sources of fire.

Birri Takes Over Ministry, Makes Statement

NC141514 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1413 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The new minister of hydroelectric resources, Nabih Birri, took over his responsibilities today from former minister Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat at a ceremony attended by top ministry officials and senior engineers. In a short speech on the occasion, Mr Birri paid tribute to the efforts of his predecessor and praised officials who had sacrificed to maintain public services. Minister Birri referred to the important services already rendered and to the lifting of the electricity rationing yesterday in all Lebanon. He stressed that he was not a specialist in the field and told all present that he needed their help, especially in terms of reactivating of the Al-Litani project and in terms of pressing ahead with the task of meeting the needs of all Lebanon.

Al-Bisat spoke briefly expressing his best wishes for the success of Minister Birri in his new task. Al-Bisat noted that the Resources Ministry had suffered due to the extensive damage inflicted on installations and the need for planning years in advance. He said that there were important projects to be carried out and studies were underway to other key projects. He referred to the Al-Litani projects and paid tribute to the high standards of the ministry's engineers and technical personnel.

In a statement to reporters, Minister Birri again categorically denied allegations that he had urged people of the [Beirut southern] suburbs not to pay their electricity bills. He said that there was obviously a smear campaign underway against him and against all who insist on a national course for Lebanon.

In a reference to the Al-Litani River project, Minister Birri said that this was a dream that Lebanon had pursued and was vitally linked to Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. He pledged to exert every effort to complete this project, but he stressed that he would not make promises that he would not fulfill. He pointed out that Israel still occupies the south and wants to plunder the Al-Litani water.

Denies Order to Utility

NC121839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Sources close to Nabih Birri, minister of water and electrical resources, have denied a report by some radios to the effect that Birri has issued an order to the Lebanese Electricity Authority not to collect electricity bills in Beirut's southern suburb. The sources emphasized that this report is completely untrue.

Karami Receives SFRY, French Envoys

NC121627 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1405 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Karami met at the government house this morning with the ambassador of Yugoslavia to Lebanon. Discussions centered on bilateral relations and conditions in Lebanon.

Shortly after noon, the prime minister, who is also foreign minister, met with the French ambassador in Beirut Ferdinand Wibaux, who later said that he had called at the government house to congratulate Prime Minister Karami. He said that France was delighted with the formation of the national unity government and wishes the new Cabinet every success. The French ambassador said that France was willing to increase its observers who help supervise the cease-fire if Lebanon requests.

Karami Makes Statement to PSP Radio

NC150923 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has stressed that problems cannot be solved by just pressing a button; on the contrary, discussions and frankness are necessary to reach common ground. He said: Of course, what is required is to remove all causes of tension from Lebanon in order to reach a permanent peace. Through the Voice of the Mountain, he reassured the citizens by saying: I want to affirm to you that the march is blazing its way strongly. After a comprehensive government program has been formulated, we feel that a great transformation will emerge. He summed up matters by saying the priorities are: liberation, security, and reforms.

Karami Interviewed on Government Policy

PM141438 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 7 May 84 p 20

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Rashid Karami by Ahmad Husayn al-Yami; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What considerations prompted you to form the Cabinet without prior consultation with the proposed Cabinet members?

Answer: We took into account the current issues, the people's urgent need for salvation, and our knowledge of the patriotism of our brothers. We decided to act quickly and form the Cabinet on our own responsibility. Now we are in the process of convincing those who are still unconvinced. God willing, all will be well.

Question: What are the broad outlines of your government policy?

Answer: Liberation, security, and reform.

Question: What about the militias? Will they be disarmed, and will the Army be rebuilt on sound basis?

Answer: There is no doubt that the course and future of security, development, and reconstruction in Lebanon will depend on the withdrawal of the arms and the gunmen and the elimination of all signs of violence on the ground and removal of all notions of violence from the hearts. That is why our aim is to generate confidence and rehabilitate the people in order to be able to resume our fraternal coexistence. All this requires an efficient and just government embodying all institutions, and that especially means having a national army to protect the homeland and safeguard public security.

Question: Do you expect new parliamentary elections?

Answer: I do not think there will be such elections in the near future because this matter depends on security and national unity.

Question: What is your government's plan for the liberation of the south from Israeli occupation?

Answer: The main responsibility for liberating the south from Israeli occupation rests here with us. We should make the necessary security arrangements locally and through recourse to all the international organizations and friendly states capable of helping us, particularly our Arab brothers.

Question: What about future relations with Syria?

Answer: Syria is our twin sister and neighbor. Syrian-Lebanese relations have always stemmed from common fate and interests.

Question: And what about Lebanon's relations with the Arab states?

Answer: We will work in the light of everything agreed by all or most Arab states.

Question: What about Lebanon's relations with Western states, especially the United States?

Answer: We will befriend those who befriend us.

Question: What relations will your government have with the PLO?

Answer: We support the PLO's unity and charter and we believe that all the brothers should join hands on bases acceptable to them and liable to fulfill the fraternal Palestinian people's legitimate national right to self-determination and to their own state.

Question: Will Lebanon hold special contacts with Egypt or will the Lebanese attitude be within the framework of the general Arab attitude?

Question: There is no doubt that Lebanon cannot take a unilateral stand. It will act in accordance with the general Arab attitude.

Pierre al-Jumayyil Chairs Party Meeting
NC141515 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1413 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Communication and Health Minister Pierre al-Jumayyil, who is president of the Phalangist Party, today chaired a joint meeting of the Phalangist Political Bureau and Central Committee. Discussions centered on security and political developments and on the results of Cabinet meetings held late last week. A number of questions related to education and to the safety of students were discussed.

In a statement later, Pierre al-Jumayyil said that the situation is unbearable and despite statements made there is obviously a sad lack of self-control He said that the democratic system allowed for differences but not for a revolution against the legitimate institutions. Al-Jumayyil condemned violence and warned against the consequences of continued lack of self-control on the security level.

U.S. Refused Request To Mediate on South
NC141455 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Beirut say Lebanon is trying to hold indirect negotiations with Israel in order to reach security arrangements for the south. The same sources add that this decision was made during the Cabinet meeting on 5 March, when the 17 May agreement was abrogated. Despite Lebanon's insistence, Washington refused to be a mediator. Lebanon is therefore currently seeking French mediation instead.

Syrians Withdraw From Areas in North
NC131710 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Syrian forces once again set up barriers, which they had previously removed, in the Bsharri area [in north Lebanon]. It was reported that the Syrians withdrew 75 percent of their forces from the Al-Arz area. The Syrians also withdrew from Qnat and Mazra'at 'Assaf in Bsharri District.

Syrians Bringing Heavy Artillery Into Al-Biqa'
NC141947 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Reports from the Al-Biqa' say that the Syrian forces are digging up some of the farmland near Turbul, Kafr Zabad, and Barr Ilyas villages in order to set up positions for their vehicles. Some of these positions are in Tall Makhadah near the town of 'Arab Fa'ur. The Syrian forces are bringing in large amounts of ammunition every day to the mountains near Dayr al-Ghazal, R'it, and Jiwar through the Al-Fa'ur-'Ayn Kafr Zabad-Wusayah-Dayr al-Ghazal Road.

Our Al-Biqa' correspondent adds that the Syrian forces are bringing in large numbers of rocket launchers and heavy artillery to the Al-Biqa' region. They are also supplying the Palestinians, who have returned to their positions after withdrawing from the mountain, with the necessary weapons. The correspondent says the Syrian forces continue to encirlce the towns of Brital, Al-Hirmil, and Ma'rabun, to raid houses in search of members of the Hezbollah Party, and to confiscate weapons and ammunition.

Four Hezbollah Members Killed in Bomb Blast
NC150853 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] While some members of Hezbollah were moving a bomb in Bisharah al-Khuri Street in Beirut, the bomb exploded, killing four of them and wounding others.

Israeli Patrol Boats Fire on Beirut Coast
NC111455 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Security sources report that Israeli patrol boats appeared at 1445 today opposite the Khaldah-Al-Awza'i coast. The patrol boats fired at some coastal positions.

Amal Accuses Israel of Violating Human Rights
NC141407 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Amal Movement's An-Nabatiyah branch issued a statement commenting on the demolition of homes in An-Nabatiyah by the Israeli enemy forces. The statement says:

Once again Israel violates human rights and the most basic international and humanitarian conventions by bulldozing a home in An-Nabatiyah, in addition to its daily practices of arrests, raids, and opening fire in the An-Nabatiyah commercial area, as well as of shutting down businesses.

The statement adds that these serious practices illustrate Israel's intentions and its obvious plans to subdue the people of the south and to suppress their steadfastness preliminary to taking over their land and paralyzing the Lebanese economy. This contradicts Israel's excuses about security, which it has been using since its invasion of the area.

The statement calls on all those who have been supporting Israel and the forces linked with it to end this support and to instead support the southern resistance and the efforts to eliminate the Israeli danger, which affects everyone.

IDF Possibly Preparing for Partial Withdrawal
NC142014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Our Sidon correspondent reports that the Israelis have been setting up barriers, fortifications, bunkers, and barbed wire on the Az-Zahrani roadblock. These new fortifications might be within the framework of preparations for a partial withdrawal from the Sidon area.

Sidon Government House Handed Over to Governor
NC150945 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpt] At 1100 today a ceremony was held during which the Sidon government house was handed over to Colonel Edward Tu'mah, the governor of the south and commander of the south gendarmerie detachment.

Israeli Planes Overfly Beirut; 'Warships' Sighted
NC151113 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1057 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] A little before 1300 today, Israeli warplanes overflew Beirut and the mountain and broke the sound barrier. At 1230, warships were sighted off Khaldah.

Israeli Troops Cordon Tyre Area After Explosion
NC140603 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that an explosion occurred in Jall al-Bahr near Tyre last night when an Israeli patrol was passing in the area. Immediately afterward, the Israeli troops cordoned off the area and conducted a search, during which two Palestinians were wounded. Our same correspondent reported last night that the Israeli troops have dismantled an explosive charge planted in a car parked in Sidon. The charge was set to go off at 1900 last night. The TNT charge, which weighed 30 kgs, was wired to detonators and electric cables. The Israeli troops identified the culprit as a member of the Muslim Brothers.

Southern Army of Lebanon Position Attacked
NC140702 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front yesterday escalated its heroic operations in the steadfast south. The front carried out well over seven operations, the last of which was an attack launched by resistance men against a military position of the Southern Lebanon Army in Bint Jubayl Square. A count of casualties was not conducted because the occupation forces imposed a military cordon following the attack. Since dawn yesterday, daring operations took place against the occupation [forces'] patrols and positions. These operations were carried out in the areas of 'Anqun, Sarba, Al-'Aqbiyah, Dahr ar-Ramlah, Jazzin, and Sidon.

PSP Radio Reports Attacks Against Israeli Forces
NC141224 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Lebanese resistance men carried out a daring operation on the Al-'Ayshiyah-Ar-Rayhamah road today when they destroyed a military truck killing three and wounding four of the enemy personnel. Furthermore, the national resistance men detonated an explosive charge on the Lib'a-Jazzin road while a military convoy was passing. This has exacted some toll among enemy personnel. The occupation forces cordoned off the area shortly afterward and started searching the nearby houses, terrorizing the populace, and firing at random.

Official on Status of Lebanese Forces Office
NC111620 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Commenting on reports carried by some news agencies about the Lebanese Forces office in Jerusalem, a Lebanese Forces official said the following: This office, which is managed by Pierre Yazbik, is operating under the name of the Christian Lebanese Agency and represents several Lebanese Christian bodies and organizations. This is only to clarify matters.

Reaction to Morocco's Hosting Jewish Conference

Envoy to Morocco Summoned

JN142030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2021 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Damascus — The SANA correspondent has learned that the Syrian Foreign Ministry has summoned its ambassador to Morocco for consultations. This comes in the wake of the Jewish conference being held on Moroccan soil in which Israelis are participating at the official invitation of the Moroccan Government.

Viewed With 'Extreme Concern'

JN150611 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Damascus — A responsible source has stated the following: The 36th anniversary marking the usurpation of Palestine by the Zionist movement that is backed by the world forces of imperialism comes amid reports about the convocation of a Jewish conference on Arab soil and at the official invitation of an Arab Government.

By hosting this conference, the Moroccan regime publicly disavows the blood of thousands of Arab martyrs, including the heroic Moroccan martyrs who fell in defense of the Arab territory and the usurped Palestinian rights during the glorious October war. By undertaking this step which is denounced by all the Arab masses, the Moroccan regime ignores the resolutions whcih were adopted by the Arab summit, the ICO, and the Jerusalem Committee which Morocco is chairing.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which is greatly eager to maintain Arab and Islamic solidarity in the face of the expansionist Israeli ambitions, views with extreme concern this grave step on which the Moroccan regime has embarked and the negative results it entails.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the Syrian Foreign Ministry has summoned its ambassador to Morocco for consultations in the wake of the Jewish conference being held on Moroccan soil in which Israelis are participating at the official invitation of the Moroccan Government.

'Betrayal of Arab Stand'

JN150934 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 15 May 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In its "Opinion" column, *AL-BA'TH* editorializes on the convocation of the Jewish conference in Morocco. It says: Arab forces and regimes appear in public once again to begin a step in the new 1,000-mile journey to liquidate the Palestine question, ignoring all the Arab summits' resolutions and the will of the Arab people in the various arenas of struggle. Once again many Arabs hide their heads in the sand vis-a-vis this step, as if the matter does not concern them and as if the issue of the Arab-Zionist conflict has turned into a case that has no history or roots, and as if every side can unilaterally deal with this conflict, dare to tamper with it, and utilize it in the service of its political delusions within the hearing and sight of all the Arabs. This is how we can describe the convocation of the international conference of the Moroccan Jews, which was opened in Rabat the day before yesterday with the participation of world Jewish delegations, including the Jews of the Zionist entity whose delegation actually arrived in fraternal Morocco and met with King Hassan II yesterday.

A review of the main and major points in the joint Arab action regarding the Palestine question in particular, and the Arab-Zionist conflict in general, shows that several Arab summit conference were held in Morocco. These summit conferences defined in a clear-cut manner the form of joint Arab action toward the entire conflict at the current stage. First among the resolutions adopted by these summits was one stating that no Arab side should deal with the Palestine question unilaterally and that establishing peace in the region requires several factors — currently unavailable —in order for it to be a just and lasting peace. Hence, what is taking place in fraternal Morocco today under the sponsorship of the political regime, in terms of disregard of the Arab summits' resolutions and of the aspirations of the Arab peoples in their various countries, is a serious stab to the Arab struggle, to joint Arab action, and to the concept of peace itself. This world Jewish gathering, which is held within a Zionist context in Morocco, is a clear Moroccan violation of the anti-Zionist Arab will. It is also a betrayal of the Arab stand. One cannot remain silent over this development nor disregard its near and far objectives.

If As-Sadat's unilateral treasonous step as represented in his visit to Jerusalem has given some Arab regimes the guts to repeat it, the death sentence which the Egyptian Arab people carried out against As-Sadat should not be forgotten by the others. Camp David is not a model that is liable to have a new Moroccan attire after all have discovered that this model has been destroyed along with its owners.

We in Syria, while in the midst of our struggle against the Zionist enemy, view what is taking place in Morocco with grave concern. We can only warn of what is embodied by that clearly treacherous gathering in Rabat. If we have since the first moment stood in the face of Camp David and resisted it until the moment of its downfall and death, we will not allow any side whatsoever to turn back the wheel of history or to test its courage in selling an Arab right to which it is entitled to possess nothing except the Arab identity which has apparently become salable by some of their majesties.

Statements Show Shultz, Shamir 'Living in Past'

JN141318 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The large defeat inflicted on the United States and Israel in Lebanon has not prevented U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz from talking about a return to Lebanon and from saying

that nothing has been settled there yet. This defeat has, likewise, not prevented Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir from saying that it is impossible to adopt an Israeli decision on withdrawal from Lebanon after the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. It is not strange to hear such statements from these politicians who are living in the past and who are dreaming of restoring the eras of colonialist domination to the world, who did not learn from the lessons of history and the experiences of peoples as well as their own experiences, and who did not comprehend the laws governing the progress of events in our age.

If George Shultz is dreaming of a U.S. return to Lebanon, his dream is no different from the dreams of John Foster Dulles to turn back the wheel of development in the socialist countries after they were turned forward following the defeat of the Hitlerian Germany and the emergence of the socialist bloc. His dream is also no different from the old colonialists' dream of the return of empires and crowns and of keeping the sun rising for 24 hours a day over unlimited expanses of colonies.

The requirements for the fulfillment of George Shultz' dreams about Lebanon and other than Lebanon are beyond the United States' capabilities under the current international situation and the current balances of power. The United States will not manage to usurp Lebanon if it tries to do so again, in the same manner as it failed when it sent its fleets, aircraft, aircraft carriers, and Marines to Lebanon. The United States has tested its political and military power in Lebanon. What was the result? It was a result known by all. If some argue that it was a historic defeat of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East, nobody argues that it was a large U.S. defeat which demonstrated the limits of the United States' ability and potential in this age.

The policy of using or threatening to use force has failed in Lebanon; it will fail once again if it is repeated by the United States. Should the United States have an opportunity to play a role in the region, it will be an opportunity to give up the dreams of imposing domination and hegemony, renounce the policy of unreserved support for Israel's aggression against the Arabs, and adopt a balanced policy that adheres to the principles of the UN Charter and respects the UN resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East. If the United States is looking forward to having a role in Lebanon, this role will not take place unless the United States retracts its double-faced policy and remembers its promises and pledges to make Israel respect the Security Council's resolutions and withdraw its invading forces from the Lebanese territories unconditionally. Unless the United States comprehends the lesson of its defeat in Lebanon, the downfall of the 17 May agreement it supported, the invasion of Lebanon, and the U.S. military intervention in Lebanon, and unless its changes its policy that is hostile to the principles of the UN Charter and to the national and pan-Arab interests of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arabs, its defeats will continue, its name will further deteriorate, and its influence will further crumble. It will then have no foothold for influence, status, or role in this part of the world.

As for Shamir's threats of staying in Lebanon, the reply is reaching him from the Lebanese nationalist resistance and from the fact that every occupier is doomed to evacuate the land under his occupation whether by will or force.

U.S., Israel Agree on Lebanon, Reject Withdrawal

JN141753 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 May 84

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" prorgam]

[Text] In occupied Palestine, Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has told members of his government that the United States and Israel agree on everything concerning the Lebanese situation in particular and the Middle East situation in general. He said that this identity of U.S. and Israeli stands strengthens his government's position in rejecting the idea of withdrawal from Lebanon. The enemy prime minister explained that the cancellation of the 17 May agreement made the Americans see the Israeli viewpoint and brought them closer to the policy that Israel is pursuing in Lebanon.

During its weekly meeting yesterday, the Zionist enemy Cabinet discussed several security and military reports submitted by Moshe Arens, the chiefs of military intelligence, and Mossad. Western press circles in occupied Palestine believe that placing obstacles in the way of Rashid Karami's government was one of the key topics discussed by Shamir's government yesterday.

Meanwhile, reports from the occupied homeland indicate that the United States has intervened in order to persuade certain Israeli opposition figures to give up some of their demands — such as the pledge for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon — and to try instead to support the idea of keeping the Israeli forces in the south until the United States has accomplished certain diplomatic tasks aimed at checking any Arab effort in support of Syria and the Lebanese Government.

AL-BA'TH on Israeli Preparations for Aggression

JN130802 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 13 May 84

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The newspaper *AL-BA'TH* today comments on the method through which the Arabs should confront the attempts to impose faits accomplis on them. *AL-BA'TH* says: President Hafiz al-Asad has again defined Syria's firm stand on the region's developments. He asserted that while seeking to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Syria is preparing itself to confront and resist any aggression Israel may launch with U.S. support with the aim of imposing a new fait accompli of domination over the region. Al-Asad's remark that Israel is preparing for aggression is being corroborated by the current events. Yesterday, the media reported that Israel was continuing its military concentrations in western Al-Biqa', which it started several days ago. Reports also say that Israel is holding various kinds of military maneuvers in southern Lebanon.

Various Arab and non-Arab sources — even the enemy media — have made it clear that Israel, which is ruled by the Likud bloc, and which invaded Lebanon in the summer of 1982, failed to realize its aims. On the contrary, the results of this invasion, which was implemented with direct U.S. assistance, had many negative effects on Israeli society, which had already been dis-

united. Therefore, these sources conclude, the Likud, which is now certain to lose power in the July elections, may embark on a military operation against Syria in Lebanon with the aim of reducing its election losses.

AL-BA'TH adds: We in Syria are well aware of the exchange of roles among the Zionist parties. Strategically, all of them are in agreement on realizing further expansion at the expense of Arab land until the original aim is realized — namely, the establishment of a state from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Based on this understanding of the nature of the Arab-Zionist struggle, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed that the Arabs want peace from a position of equality with the enemy and not from a position of weakness. Syria has been calling on all of the Arab brothers to adopt a unified stand by building the Arabs' own power that is capable of confronting all eventualties, especially since the enemies of the Arab nation led by the United States, which assists the Arabs' main enemy, Israel, with all the means of support, are continuing to demand from the Arabs further concessions for Israel despite all the concessions offered by some Arabs, and despite the numerous retreats by them before Israel.

AL-BA'TH points out that it has been proved beyond doubt that wishful thinking does not liberate territories; that only great sacrifices and tremendous efforts can liberate the usurped land. Syria, under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, believes a just peace can be realized only through a strategic equilibrium. Syria reiterates that Arab rights cannot be restored except through an Arab force that is able to face all eventualities.

Concluding its comment, *AL-BA'TH* says: Syria, which has gone a long way in this direction, will continue its efforts to realize this great aim relying on the support of the Arab masses and the forces of freedom in the world, led by the friendly USSR.

Warning on Consequences of Israeli Aggression

JN131645 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the Israeli enemy continues its preparations to launch a large-scale aggression against our country and our Armed Forces. To achieve this, the Israeli enemy is concentrating its troops along the cease-fire lines and other forces are conducting live-fire military maneuvers in many areas near these lines. This is in addition to other aggressive activities which come under provocations, escalation of tension, and spreading war atmosphere in the region.

Syria has always been eager to achieve peace and to provide opportunities for the efforts aimed at solving the problems through peaceful means. Syria will continue to adhere to this stand as long as it has avail. However, it will always be ready to use its right; and to assume its national and pan-Arab duty to defend itself against any aggression. Syria will never hesitate to confront any aggression and defeat the enemy's plans. It is time the aggressors understood that Syria will not be an easy prey or morsel; it will be a thorn in their throat. It was so, and so it will remain. Syria of course knows exactly what these aggressors need from it and what they are planning. At the same time, Syria knows exactly how to abort their plans and defeat their will. The aggressors want to regain their positions and those of their masters they lost in Lebanon because of Syria's steadfastness and the sacrifices offered by our people in Lebanon for the sake of their homeland's freedom, independence, and sovereignty. They want to bypass disappointment and bitterness as well as the feelings of failure and defeat before conducting the elections which have entered the countdown stage not only in their aggressive entity, but also in the United States.

Syria knows full well that with the approach of the election date in their aggressive entity, the possibility of launching an an aggression is increasing. However, they must understand that Syria will not allow them to use its national and pan-Arab security in an elections bargain. Syria will also not allow them to set up traps and conspiracies to justify their expected aggression. Syria also knows full well that these aggressors are waiting for opportunities to obstruct the march of national accord in Lebanon, after the formation of the Lebanese Government and after it has begun its tasks and action. But they must know that what has been done cannot been undone, that the 17 May aggreement has gone for ever, that Syria considers the achievement of Lebanese national accord its strategic objective, and that Syria has advanced in great strides on this road.

The aggression Israel intends to launch will be incapable of changing what has been achieved, and the concocters will be incapable of achieving any useful result. This aggression will result in more disappointments and defeats for them. Syria is strong and capable; it is stong with its people, Armed Forces, and the nation's masses rallying around it; it is capable not only of repulsing the aggression, but also deterring its concocters and perpetrators. Will the aggressors be aware of this fact before they embark on any reckless step or stupid action? Will they reconsider their calculations and review their stands before launching an aggression whose consequences will be difficult to contain and whose effects and extensions will be difficult to assess?

Cabinet Reviews Political, Military Situation

JN141205 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] At 1100 today, the Cabinet held a session under Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm during which it reviewed the current political situation in the region. In this regard, Al-Kasm explained the results of some Arab and international contacts concerning the various developments, noting Syria's pan-Arab stand toward the continued strengthening of all the steps that aim at foiling any conspiracy against Lebanon, the Palestine question, and Arab struggle. General Mustafa Talas explained the Syrian military situation in Lebanon for which all preparations have been made in order to confront the various possibilities. Later, the Cabinet discussed the topics on its agenda. The discussion included a study of economic benefits and the means of promoting them and the establishment of a public institution to import the necessary medical apparatus and equipment and to maintain them. The Cabinet approved several necessary measures in various fields.

President Issues Law Approving 1984 Budget

JN132043 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad has issued Law No 1 dated 12 May 1984 including the appropriations of the general budget for the fiscal year 1984, amounting to 41,289 million Syrian pounds, and setting the estimated revenues at a similar amount.

The Finance Ministry issued the required instructions to implement this budget and distributed them to the ministers' accountants, the general directorates, and to its departments in the central administration and the governorates. The budget became effective as of 1 January 1984.

Finance Minister Hamdi as-Saqqa stated that in accordance with the president's directives the government was eager to prepare the general budget for the fiscal year 1984 and to present it to the People's Assembly to be approved . The government was concerned about achieving the following principles: ensuring defense requirements in the first place, adhering to a plan of austerity in all spheres of consumer expenditures, concentrating on reducing public expenditures such as office supplies and others as much as possible, adhering to the implementation of the principles of the fifth 5-year plan in light of the current conditions and the economic pressures our country is facing through: directing the employment in the spheres of irrigation, land reclamation, and agriculture projects; linking the oil and power projects; benefitting from the existing energy; completing the current projects; completing distributing power; and continuing drilling for oil with concentration on digging and exploring and on projects of transporting purified natural gas.

Az-Zu'bi Meets Lebanese Parliamentary Delegation

JN131306 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Damascus — People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi this morning received Lebanese Parliament Deputy Speaker Munir abu-Fadil, who is currently visiting Damascus. During the meeting, talks focused on the situation in fraternal Lebanon after the formation of a government of national unity under Rashid Karami, on the progress of the national reconciliation process and on the steps to be taken to restore quiet and stability to the fraternal country. The positive results achieved since the abrogation of the 17 May agreement were reviewed. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of supporting the Lebanese resistance by all means and until southern Lebanon is liberated from Israeli occupation. Munir abu Fadil praised Syria's great support under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad for the Lebanese people, and the substantial sacrifices it is making so that Lebanon can regain its normal status and stability and can achieve the unity of its people and territory.

At the end of the meeting, Mahmud az-Zu'bi expressed hope that the lives of the Lebanese people will soon return to normal and that everybody in the fraternal country will cooperate to achieve national reconciliation, to build Lebanon, and to liberate the land from the Zionist invasion

Ash-Shar' Receives Abu Fadil

JN140941 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 May (SANA) — Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' received here today Munir Abu Fadil, deputy speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, who is currently visiting Syria. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Lebanese arena following the formation of the government of national unity under Rashid Karami and the efforts exerted by Syria to restore security and stability to Lebanon. Ash-Shar' stressed the important role of the Lebanese nationalist forces and figures in abrogating the 17 May agreement and in bringing about the success of national reconciliation in Lebanon. On his part, Abu Fadil praised Syria's pan-Arab stand under President Hafiz al-Asad in support of Lebanon in order to preserve its Arabism, people's unity, and territorial integrity.

Ba'th Party Official Receives CPSU Message

JN141907 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 14 May (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Ba'th Party National Command and head of the foreign relations office, received a message from the CPSU Central Committee today. The message was delivered by the USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus when he was received by Haydar today.

The message deals with the political consultations between the USSR and the PRC which took place in April during the two countries' fourth round of talks held in Moscow, and with the sixth Afro-Asian conference scheduled to convene in Algeria on 20 May. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on issues in the Arab region and on the USSR-Syrian relations existing between the two friendly parties and people.

'Secret Talks' Held With Syria on Mutual Withdrawal

TA151318 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 May 84 p 1

[Report from London by Avi Meller]

[Text] Intelligence sources in London contend that Israel has been recently holding talks with Syria. These contacts may shortly culminate in a mutual agreement for the withdrawal of the IDF and the Syrian Army from Lebanon, these sources argue. According to them, the secret talks were initiated by Israel. The question of a prisoner exchange and permanent arrangements for a disengagement of forces [last three words as published] in Lebanon were also raised in these talks.

Syrians Redeploy Near Beirut-Damascus Highway

TA141613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Over the past few days Syrian soldiers have reoccupied the positions they deserted last winter south of the Beirut-Damascus highway, on the slopes of Jabal al-Baruk. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal after touring the eastern sector of Lebanon.

The IDF summer deployment allows for observation and fire control over that highway. A commander in that sector has told our correspondent that the IDF would encounter no difficulties blocking the road if it were decided to stop the Syrians from proceeding from Al-Biqa' to Beirut.

Sources in the defense establishment believe that the IDF will not soon withdraw from Jabal al-Baruk or the eastern sector, unless an agreement is reached with Syria to have UN forces deploy in the area to prevent the penetration of terrorists or the capture of the area by the Syrian Army.

IDF Sees No 'Unusual' Syrian Movements in Al-Biqa'

TA151059 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 15 May 84

[Excerpts] Israeli officers in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' valley area say there are no indications of any unusual Syrian military activity or movements. The situation along the cease-fire lines in the eastern sector is quiet, they told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami who was in the area yesterday.

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] Current Israeli attention on the cease-fire line between Syrian and Israeli troops in the east of Lebanon is directed at stopping infiltration efforts by PLO units and not with concern over Syrian troop movements or potential clashes with the Syrians. Recent Syrian troop movements in the area are not seen as any buildup for offensive action but rather a routine return to the Al-Biqa' by soldiers who left untenable positions during the harsh winter weather, and a move back by units which were transferred to Damascus during the tense internal Syrian situation following President Hafiz al-Asad's heart problems earlier this year. According to one senior Israeli officer in the Al-Biqa' valley region both Israeli and Syrian forces are now carrying out routine spring activity in building up their defenses. One change however that has been noted in the Syrian deployment, although it is not entirely new and has been going on gradually, is an effort to change infantry-backed forces along the cease-fire lines into fortified positions for tanks and mechanized infantry units. This is in line with the Syrian Army policy that is putting great emphasis on building up a mechanized infantry force as well as increasing its armored corps. [end recording]

Delegation Participates in Moroccan Jewish Congress

Arrival 13 May

TA131129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] A delegation from Israel has just arrived in Morocco to participate in a congress of Moroccan Jewish communities. The delegation includes nine Knesset members, the mayors of Ashdod and Ashqelon, editors of three of Israel's leading papers, and a number of intellectuals and community leaders.

In his address to the congress, Alignment MK Rafi Edri will invite King Hassan to visit Israel. Edri will emphasize that it was on Moroccan soil that the initial contacts were made between Israeli and Egyptian officials, which led to the peace treaty between the two countries. The Moroccan media have reported the visit of the delegations from Jewish communities abroad, but have not mentioned Israel's participation.

Invitation to Hassan

TA131639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] I hope that Moroccan King Hassan II will accept our invitation to visit Israel and that if he comes he will be received by the entire nation with all possible respect and warmth. This was said a short while ago by Alignment MK Rafi Edri, the head of the Israeli delegation to the international congress of Moroccan Jewry at the opening session in Rabat this evening. Our correspondent Rafi Matar in Paris reports this evening that it has been learned from an official source in Rabat that the king will indeed receive some of the delegation members, the Knesset members, for a talk.

[Begin recording] [Matar] The Israeli delegation to the congress in Rabat arrived 6 hours ago on board a Moroccan Air Force plane from Paris. Upon their arrival, the delegation members were received by representatives of the authorities and leaders of the Moroccan Jewish community.

The head of the Israeli delegation, MK Rafi Edri, said with great excitement: I should note from here, from Rabat, that we could not have been given a warmer or heartier welcome; we were given the nicest possible reception, as is customary in this area. The opening session is now taking place at the Hilton Hotel and a number of Moroccan Cabinet members as well as leaders of all parties are attending. MK Edri told us from Rabat:

[Edri] Our delegation is composed of all components of the Israeli political spectrum; it is representing everybody, from Yosi Sarid to Ra'anan Na'im [Alignment Knesset members]. I am confident that just as Morocco was the bridge to peace between Israel and Egypt, we may, perhaps, see here the beginning of a new bridge between Israel and the other Arab countries.

[Matar] In the speech the head of the Israeli delegation delivered, he emphasized the importance of the Zionist mission and the aspirations of Israel and the Israeli peoplefor peace. He noted the contribution of Moroccan immigrants to the building of Israel. We are calling for a dialogue with Morocco, Edri said, and we all hope for its successful continuation.

Tomorrow the members of the Israeli delegation will lay a wreath at the tomb of King Muhammad V, and will attend a dinner which the Moroccan crown prince will also attend. [end recording]

Delegates 'Guests of Morocco'

TA141125 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
14 May 84 pp 1, 11

[Report on interview with Moroccan Minister of State Without Portfolio Moulay Ahmed Alaoui by Shmu'el Schnitzer on 13 May; place not given]

[Excerpts] "You are here as guests of Morocco, a country with a long-standing tradition of hospitality. It is not correct to say that the Israeli delegation was invited by the Jewish community in Morocco. It is not the community that invited you. There are no communities here; there are Jews and Muslims and all of them are Moroccans." Moroccan Minister of State Without Portfolio Moulay Ahmed Alaoui made these remarks in a talk with *MA'ARIV*.

Alaoui is one of the two ministers who officially greeted the congress. Later, he told us: "The congress taking place today is a great and historical achievement. There is no need to look for practical results. We in Morocco believe in doing things step by step. You were not here a few years ago, so we should wait and see what happens to us after the congress."

In his address, Alaoui proposed the establishment of a Muslim-Jewish association for peace, and later expanded on this point in his talk with *MA'ARIV*: "Let us call this association the Sons of Abraham; we are all his offspring. This association should not only include Moroccan Jews and Muslims, but should be broader and include people from all strata of society, beginning with politicians, writers, and intellectuals, and ending with journalists." On the issue of the media, the minister was asked whether we should expect visits by Moroccan journalists in Israel now that Israeli correspondents have visited Morocco. "Moroccan journalists are free to decide whether they want to visit Israel," The minister replied, and he went on to propose that members of the media of both countries hold a meeting during the congress. Minister of State Alaoui is known as being close to King Hassan II. Hence, the importance of his remarks about the way to achieve peace in our region: "The best and only basis for achieving peace lies in the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Fes, which were unanimously embraced by the Arab world and which have gained wide support from other countries in the world."

Invitation to Moroccan Ministers

TA141148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT
14 May 84

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to the Jewish conference in Morocco, MK Refa'el Edri, had a tete-a-tete yesterday with Moroccan Minister of State Ahmed Alaoui. Our correspondent in France has learned that MK Edri invited the Moroccan ministers of the interior, agriculture, and construction to visit Israel. It is still not clear whether the ministers have accepted the invitation.

Minister Alaoui Interview

TA141435 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
14 May 84 pp 1, 7

[Report on interview with Moroccan Minister of State Without Portfolio Moulay Ahmed Alaoui by Noah Mozes on 13 May; place not given — reported by telephone from Rabat]

[Text] "The existence of the State of Israel is a fact that the Arabs recognize," Moroccan Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui told me in a private meeting yesterday.

"I am certainly in favor of the existence and prosperity of the State of Israel," the Moroccan minister continued, "but, by the same token, we must recognize an Arab state alongside the State of Israel. Just as there are elements interested in destroying your country, there are elements interested in destroying the notion of a Palestinian state. We, the moderate elements in the region, do not desire the destruction of any country whatsoever. Some say about your country that it is entirely Jewish, whereas others say about the same country that it is entirely Palestinian. We favor the middle of the road which all of us, both Jews and Arabs, have inherited from Maimonides."

Replying to my question about the way the peace process should now be promoted, the Moroccan minister of state said he suggests the establishment of a peace organization which would include all peace-seeking Jews and Arabs who would be willing to cooperate on the basis of compromise. He himself, so he told me, would be willing to take part in the establishment of such an organization.

I asked the minister which kind of compromise he had in mind, and he smilingly replied: "I have a formula for everything, just like Karl Marx."

At the end of our meeting, Minister Alaoui recalled that many years ago he invited the chairman of the World Zionist Organization, the late Nahum Goldman, to Morocco and held negotiations with him about Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors.

Hassan Meeting Not Set

TA141720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] No meeting has as yet been set between King Hassan of Morocco and the members of the Israeli delegation presently in Rabat, despite statements by official sources in the capital thata meeting today is still scheduled. This was learned from the delegation this evening. A short while ago we talked to MK Yosi Sarid, who reiterated the tremendous importance of the very fact of this event being held in Morocco.

[Begin Sarid recording] This is a political event of the highest importance. Hassan II wishes to place his good offices at the disposal of the two sides, chiefly at the disposal of the Israelis and the Palestinians, just as he did in the case of Israel and Egypt 7 years ago. A very open hint of this could be discerned last night in statements made by the Moroccan minister of state, who declared that he is proposing to establish a peace organization in which moderate Jews and Arabs would collaborate in order to further peace in the region. This organization will be established, and will fight against extremists on both sides. It will also have to be based upon the mutual recognition of both sides. [end recording]

Israeli Presence Not Mentioned

JN142055 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 14 May 84

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] The Moroccan Jewish conference which began in Rabat yesterday will end today. The following report by our colleague Yigal (Kenick) is on the last day of the conference:

Sources at the Royal Palace in Rabat said today that the Israeli delegation received an invitation to meet with King Hassan II of Morocco. However, according to the latest reports from Morocco this evening, the Israeli delegation has not yet received this invitation. The Israeli delegation, which has 35 members — nine of whom are Knesset members — has not yet held direct political contacts with their Moroccan hosts. It has not yet been officially asserted that King Hassan II intends to invite all or part of the Israeli delegation to meet him.

The Moroccan papers devoted their front pages to covering the conference proceedings. However, these papers completely ignore the Israeli delegation's presence in Morocco. It seems that the Moroccan king has decided to not embark on any new political initiative before the conference ends tonight.

Delegation Head Edri Interview

TA150658 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 May 84

[Telephone interview with the head of the Israeli delegation in Morocco, MK Refa'el Edri, by anchorman Shalom Qital]

[Excerpts] [Qital] Good morning, do you hear me?

[Edri] Good morning, Sir. Yes, I hear you. I am talking from Rabat. The time here is 0515, and I hear you well.

[Qital] What did you do yesterday? Whom did you meet?

[Edri] Last night there was a concluding dinner, attended by approximately 500 people. Among those participating were the Moroccan crown prince, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim-Lamrani, Moroccan Foreign Minister Belkeziz, Prince Moulay ('Ali). Other ministers and heads of parties participated as well. In brief, all government officials were present last night at the special dinner, and as I said, the crown prince as well.

[Qital] Will there be a meeting with King Hassan of Morocco?

[Edri] So far no meeting has been scheduled.

[Qital] Thank you very much, MK Rafi Edri.

[Edri] Excuse me, I wish you would allow me to add that I realize that the road to peace is a long one. However, we must take advantage of every road and every opportunity, and I believe that if we persist in our efforts, and do all that is possible, we will be able to reach the long sought-after peace, without spreading any illusions. I know that this will not happen tomorrow, nor the day after tomorrow. However, this is another stone added to the building of peace. We have also taken this opportunity to call on the king and Government of Morocco to act as fair mediators between the sides involved in the Middle East conflict.

[Qital] Thank you very much, MK Edri.

'Tacit Agreement' at Congress

TA150720 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 May 84 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report from Rabat by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpt] The king of Morocco only decided upon the congress of Moroccan Jews in Rabat, with the public attendance of representatives of Israel, after he had received tacit agreement [haskama sheqeta] on this from representatives of the PLO (Fatah) and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan. This was reported yesterday by authoritative sources here. These sources said that Hassan II had decided to hold the Rabat congress (at first, it was to have been held in Fes) about 2 months ago, after many postponements. The king summoned the leader of the Jewish community, David 'Amar, for a talk, and gave him the "green light" to extend a public invitation to the Israelis.

It has been learned that several months ago, senior Jewish figures in Europe and the United States expressed their profound disappointment to senior Moroccan representatives at the king's statements against Zionists (after the rioting in Morocco at the beginning of 1984, in which more than 100 people were killed). These Jewish sources explained to the Moroccan representatives that statements of this sort could obstruct their efforts to work for Morocco's interests in the West. The authoritative sources also reported that, in addition to his desire to obtain economic support and backing from the United States and Europe, inter

alia, for his war against the Polisario organization in the Sahara region, the king wants to take a more active part in the attempts to achieve a solution to the Palestinian problem, and the public invitation to the Israeli delegation to Rabat is the first step in that direction.

The king is still considering whether to consult with several senior representatives of the Israeli delegation, and up to the time of handing in this report, no such intention has been reported. Meetings with Israeli Knesset members who are in the delegation may be held with lower echelons of the Moroccan Administration.

Hassan II is seriously considering sending an official Moroccan delegation to Israel in the near future, one that would include members of parliament and senior representatives dealing with commerce and industry, as well as newspaper editors and senior journalists. The Palestinian problem was raised yesterday for the first time at the congress by Minister of State for Information [title as published] Moulay Ahmed Alaoui (this was his second speech); he also spoke at the congress the day before yesterday, (13 May), about Morocco's commitment to the Palestinian problem.

In his remarks, the minister spoke of Morocco's adherence to the Fes conference resolutions on the issue of the conflict, and said that King Hassan was one of the few people capable of calling upon the Palestinians and Israelis to sit down together to solve the problem. The minister said that this was the message the congress must pass on to the entire world and it must be very explicit.

The leader of the Israeli delegation, MK Refa'el Edri, in his contacts here with Moroccan elements, is putting forward the issue of mutual recognition between the two countries and the maintenance of diplomatic relations between Israel and Morocco. There is as yet no reaction to these proposals by senior administration elements in Morocco.

These remarks by the Moroccan minister reinforce the feeling here that the king wants to assume a more active role in solving the dispute. The king hopes, so the sources have said, that after the Israeli election, it will be possible to pursue additional steps in the direction he began this week, such as sending a high-level Moroccan delegation to Israel and perhaps also initial feelers in the direction of getting Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians to meet under Moroccan mediation. In contrast to this, a certain moderation was noted yesterday and the day before on the issue of the publicity surrounding the participation of the Israeli delegation in the congress: the local press, in French and Arabic, did not mention the participation of the Israeli representatives in the congress and it is possible that pressure has recently been applied by Arab countries (apparently Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and others) to "lower the profile" on the matter of the Israelis' attendance here.

Last night a festive dinner was given in the hotel where the congress is being held in Rabat, under the auspices of the Moroccan crown prince, Sidi Mohamed, and his brother (both of them are the king's sons) and with the attendance of the prime minister and all the ministers. In the morning it was not clear whether the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, would indeed attend the dinner, and fears were expressed that the Moroccans were being subjected to Arab pressure and had decided to cancel the participation of a representative of the royal house. However, after that it emerged that the fears had been unjustified.

Minister of State for Information [title as published] Moulay Ahmed Alaoui also said in his remarks to the congress yesterday that his proposal of the previous day to the congress members to establish an "Association of the Sons of Abraham for Peace in the Middle East" — composed of members of all sects — remained. He proposed the establishmetr of an organizing committee from among the people attending the congress.(From his remarks it was understood that Israelis would also be essential partners in it, although this was not stated specifically). The minister said:. We asked the leader of the Jewish community in Morocco, David 'Amar, and members of the "Dialogue and Identity" [Di'alog Vezihut] association (an association established by Jews of Moroccan origin living in France, which works for understanding and dialogue between Jews and Arabs) to organize the founding conference so that we will be able to pursue this initiative.

After his speech, the minister told the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent that both Israel and the Palestinians are existing facts and now the only thing outstanding was to get them to meet with each other. The minister added: "We will work only in accordance with the principles drawn up at the Fes conference and I am confident that if both sides work with goodwill, we will also be able to arrive at achievements." He also said that this was a unique congress in which Jews and Muslims could speak freely, without complexes, with the sole goal of getting to know each other. Muslims would get to know Jews and Jews would get to know Muslims in order to arrive at a peace process and build something positive between Jews and Arabs. These remarks by the Moroccan minister, as commentators here who are well versed in the procedures of the rule in Morocco have explained, indicate that after Minister Alaoui had proposed the establishment of the association the day before yesterday, he was given approval for this by the most senior echelons, apparently the king; and so he repeated this proposal with added emphasis. What he said proves a Moroccan desire for further involvement in the Palestinian issue.

Moroccan Congress Concludes

JN150711 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The world conference of Moroccan Jews was concluded in Rabat last night. The conference was attended by an Israeli delegation and delegations representing the Jewish communities in the United States, Britain, France, and other states.

It was decided in Rabat last night to form The Sons of Abraham Association. This association is an Arab-Jewish one whose mission is to push forward the peace process in the Middle East through encouraging dialogue. Israeli, Jewish, and Moroccan figures, whose names have not yet been disclosed, will be affiliated to this association. Quoting informed sources in Rabat, the newspaper *HA'ARETZ* said that Moroccan King Hassan II

views positively the dispatch to Israel on an official Moroccan delegation comprising ranking deputies and representatives in the fields of trade and industry, and senior journalists.

The members of the Israeli delegation in Rabat are scheduled to leave for Casablanca today as guests of the Jewish community in Casablanca.

In the wake of the Jewish conference which was held in Morocco in which Israeli officials participated, Syria has summoned its ambassador from Morocco. Egypt, however, has announced through Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, that it views the conference as a positive step which is in line with the invitation for dialogue and negotiations. Dr Ghali said that this positive step will help to attain just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Shamir, Kohen-Orgad Decide on Election Economy
TA141432 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
14 May 84 p 6

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Shlomo Frankel and Amnon Atad]

[Excerpts] The senior government level has decided to put into effect an "election economy" policy to improve the Likud's chances in the elections for the 11th Knesset. Prime Minister Shamir has conferred with Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad on this issue. They agreed on a series of measures which will contribute to improving the Israeli public's feeling of prosperity on the eve of the elections. Officially, both the finance minister and the prime minister's associates deny any report about an election economy policy, and say that all the decisions conform to government policy.

In secret consultations, Likud figures have expressed concern about the high consumer price index scheduled to be published this week. They decided to adopt a series of measures to play down the high figure for April, and highlight the low figure predicted for the May index. Likud figures, including the prime minister, have asked the finance minister to try to indicate immediate economic achievements.

HADASHOT has learned that the government is contemplating a series of measures to improve the condition of the individual in the near future. This will involve a reduction in income tax payments for poorer sections of the public, and cost of living increments that would compensate salaried workers for the erosion, in real terms, of their wages. These measures by the Treasury would join a previous series of steps such as the curb in the drop of wages in real terms, and the increased subsidization of essential commodities.

Shamir Supports Changing GAHAL Agreement
TA150650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The prime minister supports the changing of the GAHAL agreement, and expressed support for the stand taken by the Herut representatives in talks with the Liberal representatives. This is reported by our correspondent Amnon Nadav. In yesterday's meeting, David Levi suggested reducing the representation of the Liberals on the Likud's Knesset list to 16 of the first 50 places. The Liberal ministers explained that they adhere to the status quo, according to which they are assured 18 of the first 48 places.

Minister Levi said that the matter will be passed on to the secretariat and the center of the Herut Party for their decision. The secretariat will convene tomorrow, with an aim to convening the Herut center by next week.

Labor Denies Navon Foreign Ministry Agreement
TA150740 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
15 May 84 p 3

[Text] The Labour Party spokesman yesterday denied a recent press report that party Chairman Shim'on Peres had offered the post of deputy prime minister and foreign minister to former President Yitzhaq Navon. Peres and Navon made no such agreement, and no guarantees were given to Navon to dissuade him from challenging Peres for the party leadership, the spokesman said. He added that, after Navon's decision not to challenge Peres, the two discussed the possible composition of a Labour government, but decided not to draw up a shadow cabinet.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban told *THE JERUSALEM POST* last night that he had been advised by Peres's office not to believe the report. He added that such an agreement would be contrary to a long series of undertakings made to him by Peres.

Circles close to Eban said that he would not be prepared to accept any position other than foreign minister in an Alignment government.

Despite the denials, Navon's supporters are believed to be pressuring for a deal. They believe that they are in a good negotiating position at the moment, given the former president's popularity.

Peres, on the other hand, is believed to be playing for time. His immediate priority is not to make waves before the Labour list is presented to the party central committee tomorrow, but neither does he wish to make commitments before the elections.

U.S. Administration Plans Contacts With Peres
TA131130 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
13 May 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Amir Oren]

[Text] Anticipation of an Alignment victory in the Knesset elections is encouraging elements in the Reagan administration to explore the possibility of contacts with Shim'on Peres as early as within the next few weeks, in order to renew the political process in the area immediately following the formation of the new government. The State Department last week expressed interest in a possible visit to Washington by Peres during the last week of June. An Israeli source has confirmed that Peres was, in

fact, invited to take part in a certain event, but requested that publication of details in this respect be postponed for a few days.

The source claims to have been informed by both Peres and Prime Minister Shamir, who has also been invited to participate in this event, that their preoccupation with the election campaign would prevent them from visiting the United States at the end of June.

It has been learned that there has recently been a feeling in the Reagan administration that the revival of the political process need not necessarily wait until after the U.S. presidential elections. U.S. officials believe that King Husayn will once more attempt to gain Reagan's sympathy, and that Peres' desire to embark upon a political initiative vis-a-vis Jordan as soon as his government has been established will complement Reagan's intention of demonstrating some sort of movement in the Middle East at the height of his contest with the Democratic presidential candidate beginning in August.

If Peres does not visit the U.S. next month, the Reagan Administration will endeavor to ascertain his plans by means of other direct and indirect contacts, both in the United States and in Israel.

MK Hurvitz, Shoval To Run on Independent List

TA121704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] MK Yiga'el Hurvitz and Zalman Shoval are to run for election on a list of their own. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that they want to establish a group that will include members of Telem and the Movement to Save the Economy [Tenu'a Lehatzalat Hamesheq] founded by Hurvitz.

Jewish-Arab List Set Up in Nazareth

TA131127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] A Jewish-Arab list has been set up in Nazareth. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the list includes several organizations, such as the Progressive Arab Movement, a splinter of the Sons of the Village Movement, the Ansar Movement, and the Alternative Movement. The list is headed by Muhammad (Miyari) from Haifa who is followed by Mati Peled. The list's platform calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel and for granting full equal rights to the Arab citizens of the State of Israel.

LA'AM Splits; Shostak, Olmert Lead New Factions

TA131713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] LA'AM [junior partner in Likud coalition] has split up: There are now two factions, one led by Minister Shostak, the other by MK Olmert. Two-thirds of the party executive elected Ehud Olmert to the top slot, followed by MK Yig'al Kohen; whereas the remaining one-third adjourned to hold a meeting elsewhere, and elected Shostak to the top slot, followed by Olmert. Minister Shostak denied Olmert's followers' charge that his faction has seized the party stamp, saying that he is the party chairman and therefore has the stamp by right.

Independent Liberals, CRM Elect Knesset Candidates

TA131812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Independent Liberals have chosen Yitzhaq Artzi as their candidate for the Knesset, and according to their agreement with the Labor Party, he will be given a safe place on the Knesset list, which means he has a good chance of being elected to the Knesset.

The Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] executive has decided to expand its Knesset list, so that following Shulamit Aloni, Mordekhay Bar-On, and Ran Kohen will appear on its Knesset list.

Minister Pat on Free Trade Zone Talks With U.S.

TA150544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Commerce and Industry Minister Gid'on Pat has spoken optimistically about the state of negotiations on a free trade zone between the United States and Israel. He told reporter Tony Gadot that the talks are now moving to the decision stage.

[Begin recording] For the first time we have moved from just negotiations, which are very important naturally with the administration, to the direct involvement of the parliamentary procedures via that decision taken by the Ways and Means Committee of the Senate [as haerd]. We are continuing with the meetings of our joint teams, and I do hope that we will conclude all of these negotiations so that either in the later part of June or the beginning of the first part of July that matter will be ready for introduction in the Congress. [end recording]

Controller Critical of Finance Ministry in Report

TA141501 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts] The State Controller, in his annual report, has sharply criticized the Finance Ministry in the 1982 fiscal year. Despite mitigating circumstances on the world markets, the government did not reach the targets it had set itself. The budget was increased, inflation worsened, and the printing of money was stepped up. Concurrently, the public wasted its savings and the standard of living rose, even though numerous new taxes were imposed. The report found numerous shortcomings in the work of the Accountant General. The report on the IDF revealed numerous shortcomings in a reserve unit in the IDF's Southern Command. It transpires that two brigade commanders and two deputy commanders did not pass a battalion commanders' course; and seven battalion commanders and 27 company commanders did not pass a company commanders' course. Further, some 500 reserve soldiers, who were registered in the division, were not assigned any duties. In the report dealing with the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, it is stated that numerous

immigrants were prevented from joining a plan aimed at guaranteeing them an income when they retired. Thereby their income and future welfare were adversely affected. The report on the Ministry of Health found numerous grave shortcomings in a Nahariyya hospital. The report on the Ministry of Labor states that there was insufficient provision made for workers who come into contact with chemical substances likely to endanger their health.

Inflation Adversely Affects IDF Ammunition Stores

TA141437 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 May 84 p 1

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Excerpt] Inflation has adversely affected the IDF's ammunition reserves. As far as ammunition is concerned, the IDF's condition is not good and the supplies are being used up. The reason is that inflation seriously affects the planning ability of the defense establishment. These remarks were made yesterday by the deputy chief of the IDF Planning Branch, David Gedalya, at a symposium on the issue "Public Administration in Times of Inflation and Budget Cuts" held at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He suggested that the Defense Ministry switch to planning its budget for more than 1 year.

Energy Agreement With United States Approved

TA141423 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1035 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 14 May (ITIM) — Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Yitzhaq Moda'i and U.S. Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel have recently approved a program for cooperation in research and development in the field of energy, on matters of common interest to both countries.

The program was worked out by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and various research institutes in Israel and was coordinated with U.S. representatives after teams of scientists from the United States visited the Israeli research institutes. The program includes joint study days, advice and exchanges of scientists in the field of solar energy, the use of shale and conversion to the use of coal, obtaining energy from agricultural waste, and issues involving energy conservation.

The program will make it possible for Israeli scientists to have access to U.S. Department of Energy institutions and their research results.

In the coming year, the program will cost around $750,000.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy will allocate about $500,000 to a binational U.S.-Israeli research fund, to be devoted to research into energy. The program's preparation was decided upon during the visit to Israel by the U.S. secretary of energy about 6 months ago. The Israeli team is headed by the Ministry of Energy's chief scientist and director of the Technology Department, Professor Dan Zaslavsky.

Reportage on Visit by Soviet Delegation

Allies Victory Marked

TA111333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Union has arrived in Israel to mark the allies' victory over Nazi Germany. The delegation contains seven members and is led by Moscow Deputy Mayor Anatoliy Ivanovich Kostenko. At Ben-Gurion Airport, the deputy mayor defended his country's decision not to participate in the Los Angeles Olympics. However, he explained that this was not in retaliation for the boycott the United States imposed on the Moscow Olympics. The delegation members will be guests of honor at a rally in the Red Army Forest in the Jerusalem hills.

Delegation Attends Rally

TA121242 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] This morning there was a rally in the Red Army Forest near Kibbutz Ma'ale Hahamisha, to mark the 39th anniversary of the Allies' victory over Nazi Germany. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that thousands went to the rally, including a delegation from the Soviet Union. The delegation's leader, Moscow Deputy Mayor Anatoliy Kostenko, said the Soviet nation regards the planting of the forest in the Jerusalem hills as a tribute to the Soviet soldiers who gave up their lives to save humanity from the Nazi beast. He also said that the Soviet Union supports the principle that foreign territories should not be occupied and that peace in the area would be attained if Israel were to withdraw to the 1967 borders and honor the national rights of all peoples, including the Palestinians.

Olympic Boycott Defended

TA131416 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpts] We now have an opportunity to hear what the Soviets are saying about themselves and about the Soviet decision not to attend the Olympic Games in Los Angeles; how the cancellation of the participation of the Soviet athletes is being explained in the Soviet Union. The members of a Soviet delegation now visiting Israel are trying to enlighten us on this point. The Soviets are guests of the Israel-Soviet Friendship Association. Our correspondent Haviva Roger escorted the delegation to a reception held for them by the Haifa Municipality.

[Begin Roger recording] To portray the Soviet Union as a country mixing politics with sports constitutes a misrepresentation of the facts, says Anatoliy Ivanovich Kostenko, the head of the delegation who is the deputy mayor of Moscow. In this case, it is the U.S. authorities who want to exploit the Olympic games for political purposes, Kostenko says.

The head of the Soviet delegation says that even before the Olympic games had started, some groups had called for using the Olympic games to demonstrate against the Soviet athletes: It

is a known fact that there were threats against the Soviet athletes, and that there were calls for committing acts of violence against them. Under these circumstances, I think you will agree with me that one must understand the feelings of the Soviet athletes; this is a step we were compelled to take.

Our athletes trained for the Olympic games and wanted to take part in them. We were faced, however, with a choice: either to attend the Olympic games and imperil our athletes or to threaten not to participate unless the U.S. authorities meet our demands to take measures to ensure the safety of our athletes. Is there a chance that, if such measures are taken, the Soviet Union may take part in the Olympic games, Kostenko was asked. In response, Kostenko said that the Soviet delegation had lodged its protest with the International Olympic Committee about the attitude toward the Soviet athletes. The delegation asked the committee to take measures to do away with this attitude and to create the conditions that would allow the Soviet athletes to participate in the Olympic games. Not only were these conditions not improved, but the situation even worsened: That is why I am skeptical aobut predicting what will happen in the future. I can only say what the situation is today.

The members of the delegation were asked about the report that the telephone lines of aliyah activists in the Soviet Union have been cut off. The answer to this question came from Vladimir Kosmitz of the APN: We do not have any reports that the telephone lines of anybody have been cut off. People in the Soviet Union are not banned from making telephone calls overseas. Nobody keeps track of people talking with this or another country. I think that somebody made this up, somebody who wants to spoil relations with the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Boycott, Soviet Relations Discussed

TA141412 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] A Soviet delegation now in Israel has been visiting Haifa. The Soviet Olympic boycott and Soviet relations with Israel were among the issues to come up in talks there. More from Vivien Royston:

[Begin recording] [Royston] The group of Russians headed by Moscow's Deputy Mayor Anatoliy Kostenko is at present visiting Israel. They have come for the celebration of the Allied victory over the Nazis during World War II. The visit is being sponsored by the Israeli-Soviet Friendship Committee.

Yesterday, the delegation was the guest of Haifa's deputy mayor, Professor Moshe Livne. Vladimir Runinkov of the NOVOSTI news agency [APN] hastened to stress that their visit is not official.

[Runinkov] It's not an official delegation, it's a public delegation. And, these public delegations are visiting Israel, permanently.

[Royston] Andrey Bulayev of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations is obviously pleased to be here.

[Bulayev] My dream is to visit Israel because I'm studying the problems of the Middle East. I visited all countries around Israel. So, it's a fine country, and I do like it.

[Royston] What is your reaction to the fact that Russia is not going to participate in the Olympic games?

[Bulayev] I think that this decision was right, because you see, you remember your Munich, and we don't want our sportsmen to be treated like Americans are going to treat them. The security of our men is not guaranteed by the United States.

[Royston] But the Israeli athletes seem satisfied that the security is guaranteed for the Israelis.

[Bulayev] Yes, for Israeli sportsmen I think there will be high guarantee, and for us, no.

[Royston] Why do you think it would be different?

[Bulayev] Because, you know, they started campaigning against the Soviet sportsmen [words indistinct] and they are ready for us. They are awaiting us.

[Royston] With these attitudes, Soviet participation in this year's Olympics seems to be fading fast. [end recording]

Soviets Cutting Off Telephone Lines of Jews

TA130456 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Soviet authorities have begun cutting off telephone lines to houses of Jews where calls have been received from Israel or the West. This is apparently a continuation of the Russian efforts to isolate Jews from outside contacts.

ALGERIA

Seychelles President Arrives in Algiers

LD141754 Algiers APS in English 1053 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 14/05/84 (APS) — Seychelles President France Albert Rene arrived here yesterday on an official visit to Algeria at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general, who greeted him at the airport.

In a brief speech upon arrival he said Algeria-Seychelles relations were excellent.

Answering a question on Palestinian, Namibian, and Saharan people's struggle for self-determination President Rene said: Like Algeria, Seychelles supports the struggle of these peoples, because it has always sided with peoples' rights to independence.

Tete-a-tete talks between the two presidents were held in the afternoon after which President Chadli gave a dinner at the honour of his guest.

Senior YAR Delegation Arrives, Begins Negotiations

LD112044 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] A senior delegation from the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR] arrived this afternoon in Algiers. The delegation is led by Ahmad Muhammad ash-Shijni, minister of state for cabinet affairs [as heard], member of the Permanent Committee of the Politburo and chairman of the YAR Political Committee. On arrival, the Yemeni delegation was received by members of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee and by the YAR ambassador to Algeria.

Talks Begin

LD131329 Algiers APS in English 1057 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 13/5/84 (APS) — Talks between a delegation from the FLN party and a delegation from the People's General Congress (CPG) of the Arab Republic of Yemen started yesterday in Algiers under the chairmanship of Messrs Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member, responsible of the CC Permanent Secretariat, and Ahmad Muhammad ash-Shijni, state minister in charge of affairs of the Ministers Council, member of the Permanent commission and president of the Political Commission of the Arab Republic of Yemen. The CPG experience in the field of the organization and policy was centered on during this first series of talks.

Mr Messaadia examined on this occasion the different steps lived by the FLN party and the organic links between the different social categories within organizational structures.

These talks also enabled the examination of relations between the two countries and the historic ties linking the two peoples. The Yemeni delegation, it is worth recalling, is paying at the present time an official visit in Algeria, at the invitation of the FLN party. It will visit, during its stay, many economic and social achievements as well as historic sites.

LIBYA

Authorities Ready To Allow Access to UK Detainees

NC141721 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Paris, May 14 (AFP) — Libya is prepared to give consular access to two Britons held since April 17, the day of the shooting incident at the Libyan Peoples Bureau (embassy) in London which led to the breaking of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

A diplomatic source in Tripoli contacted by telephone said that the Libyan authorities had passed the information to Alessandro Quaroni, the Italian ambassador, who is looking after Britain's interests.

The whereabouts or reasons for the arrest of the two Britons, Douglas Ledingham, who is head of the British Caledonian Airways office in Tripoli, and John Campbell, a businessman, have not been divulged.

The source said that Mr Ledingham had been arrested at Tripoli Airport by the local Revolutionary Committee in reprisal for the siege of the Peoples Bureau by the British police following the shooting of a policewoman from within the building during a demonstration.

Mr Quaroni was said to have asked the Libyans on several occasions to give the jailed Britons the same rights as Libyans arrested in Britain.

The Libyan news agency JANA said yesterday that Tripoli had protested at "support" from Britain and the United States for "terrorists" who had infiltrated Libya to Mr Quaroni and the Belgian charge d' affaires, who represents Washington's interests.

A diplomatic source in Tripoli said the authorities there had demanded that London prevent Libyan exiled opposition movements from carrying out political activities in Britain.

Muslim Brotherhood 'Agent' Captured

LD150733 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0115 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Some brother members of the People's Conference yesterday evening caught alive one (Usamah Shalluf), an American agent from the clique of the Muslim Brotherhood. He is one of the terrorist group that sneaked into the Jamahiriyah to carry out acts of sabotage against the achievements of the people and assassinate some citizens.

Peoples's Congresses Stage 'Angry' Demonstrations

LD141523 Tripoli JANA in English 1403 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] [Placename indistinct], Sha'ban 14, May 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Masses of the Basic People's Congresses staged angry demonstrations in Surman, Al-Khums, Tobruk, and Al-'Aziziyah yesterday to show the fighting challenge against infiltrators, traitors and hired agents of colonialism.

Masses of the People's Congresses expressed slogans of firm determination to chase the defeated plotters and stray dogs wherever they may be, to penalize them and give them ultimate punishment.

Angry demonstrators condemned the American Government and the fascist hireling Numayri's government for their unveiled connivance with the stray dogs and remnants of the rotten bourgeoisie trained and armed by them. Masses of the People's Congresses confirmed in statements issued following the angry demonstrations that the Arab people will not keep quiet about these dirty terrorist conspiracies but will bring double retaliation on the coward plotters and will turn into suicidal groups to execute the people's sentence against the Moslem Brotherhood cliques, America's agents, the terrorists, stray dogs and saboteurs and to liquidate them persistently without mercy and to retaliate firmly against all those who deal with them or harbour them.

The masses declared in the statements their eternal committment to the revolution and its leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in every place.

The revolutionary force at the Immigration and Passport General Administration issued a statement yesterday announcing their full readiness to become suicidal groups to punish the traitors, agents of America, Britain and Sudan, who sold their souls to the devil and allowed their ill wills to attack the civilized achievements of the people to serve their masters, enemies of freedom and progress.

Condemn Hostile Regimes

LD151034 Tripoli JANA in English 0928 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 15, May 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Masses of the Basic People's Congress held an emergency session last night in the Twenty-Eight of March and Second of March areas in the municipality of Tubruq and Kasr al-Mukaden in the Municipality of Jabl al-Akhdar, in Widan and Al-Jamil in the light of terrorist acts designed by hostile regimes against the Jamahiriyah, why an intended sabotage by infiltrating cells was foiled and the cells faced their inevitable doom.

Masses of the Basic People's Congresses confirmed their fighting challenge to terrorist cells and Moslem Brotherhood's cliques, hired agents of America. The masses stressed the urgency to form suicidal groups to liquidate those agents without mercy wherever they may be.

The masses condemned hostile regimes which pursue a shameful course colluding with terrorist cells trained in special camps in America, Britain and Sudan, emphasizing the urgency of immediate execution of Moslem Brotherhood infiltrating cliques, agents of America and remnants of the rotten bourgeois.

Masses of the Basic People's Congresses condemned strongly hireling Numayri's regime, America's and Britain's agent, his shameful course, and his intrigues against our people and his despicable stand, totally dedicated to serve imperialism. He harboured, trained and armed cells of terrorism and conspired with them against the Libyan Arab people. The masses stressed their fighting struggle with the Sudanese Arab people to topple hireling Numayri and rid Sudan of this despicable malicious agent who turned Sudan into an American colony.

Arab Peoples Congress Preparations Under Way

LD142036 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 14, May 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Council of Representatives of the Permanent Secretariat of Arab Peoples Congress held a meeting, last night, to discuss the preparation under way to commemorate the anniversary of usurpation of Palestine and the meeting of the Permanent Secretariat of Arab Peoples Congress and the International Secretariat for Solidarity with the Arab People's central cause in Palestine.

Delegations of Arab liberation movements, members of the Permanent Secretariat of Arab People Congress are still arriving to participate in these activities and to confirm their collaboration with the people of the Jamahiriyah and the Great al-Fatih Revolution in face of conspiracies of the enemies and clique of traitors and agents. Delegations of Palestinian Liberation Organization, Lebanese National Salvation Front, Yemeni Socialist Party, Iraqi National Movement, Egyptian National Movement, International Union of Arab Labour, National Movement in Morocco, Arab Peasants Union, Omani Liberation Front and other friendly countries arrived last night. The Permanent Secretariat of Arab Peoples Congress will begin meetings of the second session for 1984 in Tripoli, Today, to commemorate the anniversary of usurpation of Palestine and in solidarity with the Jamahiriyah people and to discuss the political situation in the Arab region and the world at large and escalate the Arab masses' struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionarism. [as received] The council of representatives denounced the stand of regimes, in enmity with the Jamahiriyah people, who had financed and trained the clique of Moslem Brotherhood, agents of America, who tried to infiltrate the Jamahiriyah and to carry out sabotage and conspiracy operations against the civilized achievements of the Jamahiriyah people and beared [as received] the Arab reactionary circles the responsibility of supporting Muslim Brotherhood gangs, agents of America and allies of imperialism, against the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and Arab liberation movement.

The meeting, at the end, drew attention to necessity of vigilance and excertion of efforts in order to escalate the struggle of Arab liberation movement for liberation and unity.

AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR Attacks Arsonists, Saboteurs

PM111210 Tripoli AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 7 May 84 p 12

['Abd as-Salam Salamah article: "Rats Hate Stocktaking!"]

[Excerpts] It is said that a rat gnawed a hole in the Ma'rib Dam, thereby causing the collapse of the dam and the drowning of people in the resulting flood. This once happened in Yemen.

In the Jamahiriyah, where socialist changes are taking place to establish social justice and equality, we have rats of a different kind that have been left behind by the Italians and their lackeys of the As-Sanusi family. These rats are nesting in some markets and socialist establishments. They run free and hide behind sacks, among clothes, and on shelves where foodstuffs are stored. They spoil the food, gnaw at clothes, and horde banknotes though they do not gnaw at them. When they fear exposure as a result of the corruption they cause in the market or in a socialist institution, they put a match to the place and flee, leaving behind a fire that destroys everything except the money horded by those rats. As they flee through the emergency exit, they feign anger and they curse and blame the electricity supply for causing the fire that has destroyed this market or that establishment. God help the electricity supply!

There is a heated and continuing battle going on between the firemen and the fires that devour some of the markets and establishments, or rather between the firemen and the market rats. This battle reaches its peak toward the end of the fiscal year or the beginning of a new one.

We know and we are almost certain that electricity has nothing to do with 90 percent of the fires that occur. We tell those who try to cover up [the incidents] that the actual source of the fire is the market rats who were left behind by the defunct regime and which are nesting among us. Because we blocked their holes and left them no place in which to nest they went to nest in the popular markets and establishments. We should have, if we wished to ensure safety, killed them in those holes to spare ourselves their evil and ensure the safety of the march.

One of the resolutions adopted by the fourth session of the revolutionary committees was to raid and uncover the suspect elements that hinder and corrupt the socialist system and its socialist establishments. This resolution adopted by the revolutionary forces was not taken without reason but because of the feeling by these vital forces that acts of sabotage are occurring in an attempt to halt the pioneering socialist march, reverse it, and hinder the socialist changes for which the Libyan people have opted.

If the Yemeni rats caused the collapse of the Ma'rib Dam on which the Yemeni civilization was built and because of which the Yemeni people enjoyed prosperity and a dignified life, the rats on which we are shedding light today are also, through their repeated crimes of plundering, arson, and bribery, trying to make a hole in the new socialist structure which the Great Al-Fatih Revolution has built so they can spread their poisons against humanity and social justice and therefore return to their previous life of luxury, pleasure, and laziness.

Why does the incidence of fires increase toward the end of the fiscal year and at the beginning of a new one? This affair has become a "joke" to the man in the street. As soon as the fire engine siren is heard the people say: Stocktaking is approaching. This joke is not devoid of truth. Those fires are a clear proof of the involvement of those people and their admission that the markets they are managing are suffering from a financial deficit that cannot be covered up except by setting the place on fire.

These crimes must be watched and investigated, for they are crimes against the Libyan people's property. A loyal revolutionary force must investigate these crimes to get to the source. There should be no leniency or excuses at the people's expense. Turning a blind eye to a crime is itself an unforgivable crime.

MAURITANIA

Romanian Food Industry State Secretary Visits

AB130911 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Marin Capisizu, Romanian minister state, secretary of the Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry, arrived in Nouakchott yesterday. He will take part in the deliberations of the Mauritanian-Romanian joint commission for cooperation that will open in Nouakchott today. He was welcomed on his arrival by Captain Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, minister of fisheries and maritime economy, and by the Romanian ambassador to Nouakchott.

Apart from the sessions of the joint commission, the Romanian state secretary will hold talks with several Mauritanian officials and will be received by the head of state next Tuesday.

MOROCCO

Papers Hail Third Wall, Military Control

LD131150 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpts] Rabat, 13 May (MAP) — The majority of Moroccan newspapers editorialized today on the message of praise and commendation address His Majesty King Hassan II gave to the Royal Armed Forces on the occasion of finishing the security wall which extends from Zaag to the south of Smara via (Djirah) and Hausa in the Western Sahara.

RISALAT AL-UMAH, the mouthpiece of the Constitutional Union Party, said that the conclusion of the third security wall is another stage in the path toward protecting the national soil and fortifying it so that the dirty feet of the hirelings will not be able to touch it, and the feet of the enemies who are full of hatred and malice cannot tread on it. It stressed that the conclusion of the third security wall is proof that Morocco insists on not forfeiting a single inch of its national soil, from Tangier to Guera, a single particle of sand or a single stone.

The French-language *L'OPINION*, the mouthpiece of the 'Istiqlal Party, stressed that from now on the mercenaries will not be able to sneak into the Sahara from their bases in Algeria or Mauritania.

It said that the claims of the mercenaries concerning the "liberated territories" have ended, and also ended the "visits" to Hausa, the capital of the factitious SDAR. It stressed that the Royal Armed Forces now fully and absolutely control the field.

LE MATIN DE SAHARA, which is published in Casablanca, stressed on the same subject that the mercenaries and their masters are now, more than at any previous time, in an uneviable situation, both militarily and politically.

The newspaper's editorial highlights the combing operations, by the Royal Armed Forces, and the stages of building the defensive wall within the framework of the strategy of King Hassan. It explained that the mercenaries are now not able to sneak into Moroccan soil.

The newspaper stressed that the strategy of King Hassan has two goals. The first of them is military: complete and firm control on the field. It stressed that this goal has been achieved. The newspaper added that the second is political and explained that Morocco, in spite of its superiority and the legitimacy of its rights, is always ready to organize a referendum according to the resolutions of the OAU unanimously adopted in Nairobi. It pointed out that the enemies of Morocco are trying to evade this referendum because they know in advance its outcome.

SUDAN

Libyan Salvation Front Issues Statement

JN141624 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Paris, 14 May (SUNA) — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] has categorically denied that any Arab or non-Arab party had any connection with or any knowledge whatsoever of the brave storming operation the salvation forces — the military wing of the NFSL — carried out against Al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters in the Bab al-'Aziziyah barracks in Tripoli on Tuesday, 8 May.

In a press statement issued here today, the NFSL said that Al-Qadhdhafi's administration is trying to involve a number of Arab and non-Arab countries in the attack by accusing them of being behind the heroic operation.

The Front said in the press statement that it intends to caution Arab and world public opinion that Al-Qadhdhafi is using this dirty plot in an effort to achieve the following:

1. Al-Qadhdhafi aims at minimizing the importance, capability, and size of the Libyan opposition to his rule both inside and outside Libya.

2. Al-Qadhdhafi aims at justifying the crimes, aggressions, and conspiracies he has carried out against these countries in the past. These acts are represented by the following: the January 1980 terrorist attack against the Tunisian city of Qafsah; the January 1984 destruction of the Algerian oil pipeline crossing Tunisian territory; the March 1984 barbaric air raid against Omdurman radio station; the March 1984 terrorist explosions perpetrated by Al-Qadhdhafi's agents in London and Manchester; and the 17 April 1984 killing of a British policewoman and injuring of 11 Libyan demonstrators by one of his terrorists in St James's Square in London.

3. Through this dirty plot, Al-Qadhdhafi aims at justifying the crimes and conspiracies which he has long been preparing and intends to carry out in the near future against these countries — especially against Sudan, Tunisia, and Egypt. The explosion that occurred this week in one of the buildings in Addis Ababa belonging to the Libyan authorities was carried out by Al-Qadhdhafi's men themselves. The purpose of this explosion was to give further justifications in this direction and to involve Ethiopia in Al-Qadhdhafi's dirty plot.

The NFSL added in its statement that the Front reserves its complete and legitimate right to resist Al-Qadhdhafi's rule and to topple him in the Libyan territory and from inside Libya. The front also asserts to all the neighboring and friendly countries its continued concern to respect these countries' sovereignty and to not involve them in the battle raging between our people on the one hand and Al-Qadhdhafi and his gangs on the other hand. At the same time, we are confident all the countries and people in the world are aware of the nature of the battle raging over the Libyan territory between the Libyan people and Al-Qadhdhafi's criminal clique. Our people will not forget these countries' stands toward the glorious struggle they are currently waging.

Numayri Issues Decree Relieving Two Generals

JN150955 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, May 15, (SUNA) — President Ja'far Numayri yesterday decreed the relief of Maj Gen (Security) Kamal Hasan Ahmad from his post as internal affairs minister.

The decision to relief Kamal came following reports implicating him by attempting to influence the course of justice and interence in the Emergency Court No 6 deliberations, the decree said.

The president also decreed the pensioning of Maj Gen (PSC) Siddiq Ahmad al-Banna for violating Article 119/1 of the People's Armed Forces Law for 1984 read with Article 192-A of the new penal code: "influencing of justice" regarding the case of hoarding coffee which is now being considered by the Emergency Court No 6

Five other merchants are being tried by the court for the same offence.

The Emergency Court No 6 has began hearings on the case current August 8 and sentenced the five merchants to jail terms and fines after convicting them of hoarding 5000 cartons of coffee not suitable for human consumption.

In the same case, the provincial economic and finance office director, the acting supply director and the prices inspector have

all been arraigned for collusion in issuing a letter which certifies that coffee was not one of the stored items exceeding the limits of their powers in the process.

Chairs Cabinet Meeting

JN131834 Khartoum SUNA in English 1815 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, May 13 (SUNA) — The Council of Ministers today held a regular meeting under the chairmanship of President Numayri.

The president explained the burden and responsibility of the cabinet during the current period. He emphasized that the ministers should get acquainted with decisions and regulations that deal with the organization and execution of the country's policies. The council looked into the agenda of meeting where the attorney general presented a bill of specification and quality control for the year 1984.

'Izz ad-Din Returns With Mubarak Message

JN111116 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA) — President Numayri received here last night People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid, who returned from Cairo with a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid briefed the president leader on the results of his visit to Cairo. In a statement after the meeting, 'Izz ad-Din said that the visit was successful, and that it achieved its results which represent a momentum towards cooperation between the two parts of the valley within the framework of integration between the two fraternal countries.

'Izz ad-Din arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday with a message from President Numayri to his brother President Mubarak within the framework of consultations between the two presidents.

Egyptian Army Army Commander Congratulates Al-Haj

JN131122 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 13 May (SUNA) — Lieutenant General Yusuf Hasan al-Haj, minister of state at the Defense Ministry, today received a cable of congratulations from Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazallah, deputy prime minister and defense and war production minister and commander in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, on the occasion of his appointment as minister of state in the Defense Ministry.

Committee Formed To Amend Permanent Constitution

JN141852 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 14 May (SUNA) — People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid announced today that a committee has been selected to review and amend the country's permanent Constitution, and that this committee will hold its first session tomorrow, Tuesday.

'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid added that the People's Assembly General Secretariat has prepared everything to help the committee to accomplish its tasks, pointing out the committee will present its report to the Assembly as soon as its work is completed.

The People's Assembly speaker received a memorandum today that included a request to amend the country's permanent Constitution. The memorandum is signed by one-third of the Assembly's members. It suggests that a committee be formed to review and amend the Constitution in accordance with Article 218 of the Constitution.

The committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Salih. It includes Malik Husayn as reporter, and the chairman of the People's Assembly committees as members. Members of the People's Assembly who are jurists are also members of the committee which has the right to choose jurists from outside the People's Assembly to help it accomplish its tasks.

Citizens Return in Response to March Amnesty

JN141021 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Khartoum May 14 (SUNA) — Some 40 southern citizens have repatriated in response to President Numayri's announcement of general amnesty last March, announced Daniel Koat, the governor of the Upper Nile Region.

Speaking to the press upon arrival here yesterday from Malakal, Koat said the borders with Ethiopia were closed in the face of outlaws and that security is stable in the region. He indicated that he himself had visited the repatriates who surrendered themselves to the security authorities and voiced their condemnation of the acts of the outlaws.

On the state of emergency, Koat said it was necessitated to put an end to discord and to plots against accomplishments. He announced that he had issued resolutions for forming emergency courts in Upper Nile in compliance with the president's directive.

Ba'thist Leaders Arrested Near Khartoum 14 May

JN141846 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (SUNA) — Two leaders of the so-called Regional Command of Sudan were arrested this morning after state security organs stormed a house in Futayhab, west of Khartoum. The information received by the security organs showed that this house was one of the Ba'thists' most important dens in which their hostile magazines and leaflets were printed.

Inside the house, the security organs found two (Runio) machines as well as many issues of *AL-HADAF* magazine, printed inside the house, and other documents.

This group has recently carried out feverish activities. The security organs were able to find this den through surveillance. After being investigated, the guilty people will be brought to court.

Islamic Sentences Carried Out in Khartoum

JN111448 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 11 May (SUNA) — Two sentences of cutting the right hand off at the wrist were carried out in Khartoum today. The sentences were carried out on two men convicted of robbery whohad a number of previous crimes on their records. The sentences were approved by the Court of Appeals and the High Court, carried out at Justice Square, and watched by a large crowd of citizens. It is worth mentioning that the sentences were carried out in accordance with the laws of Islamic shari'a which came into effect here last September. It is worth pointing out that seven Islamic sentences have been carried out since the law came into effect. Islamic sentences have been passed in 33 other cases, but the punishment has not yet been carried out in these cases.

TUNISIA

UK Minister Luce Meets With Prime Minister Mzali

LD111248 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of the interior, received at his office at Government House at the Qasbah this morning Richard Luce, British minister of state for foreign affairs, who is now on an official visit to Tunisia extending from 10-12 May.

Following the meeting Luce said the discussions covered Tunisian-British relations and ways to bolster them. He pointed out he and Prime Minister Mzali reviewed a number of current international issues. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi; minister of state attached to the foreign minister Mahmoud Mestiri; Tunisian ambassador in London Sadok Bouzayane; and British ambassador to Tunisia Alexander Stirling.

Talks With Bourguiba

LD121506 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce in the presence of Beji Caid Essebsi and the two countries' ambassadors this morning. The British minister of state made a statement after the audience in which he expressed how honored he felt to meet with President Habib Bourguiba, noting the supreme combatant is considered one of the most prominent statesmen in the world of the past 50 years. Richard Luce added he discussed the existing historical relations between Tunisia and Britain with his excellency the head of state, and that it was agreed to strengthen these ties to ensure a better understanding between Britain and the Arab Maghreb generally.

Bourguiba Receives Indonesian Minister, Suharto Note

LD121402 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received Indonesian Foreign Minister Kusumaatmaja Mokhtar in the presence of Mohamed Mzali and Beji Caid Essebsi and the Indonesian ambassador to Tunisia. After the audience the Indonesian minister stated that he had the honor of meeting with his excellency the president and handed him a letter from Indonesian President Suharto. He added they discussed the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Envoy to France on Morocco's New Wall

LD141240 Algiers APS in English 1050 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Paris, 14/05/84 (APS) — Mr Fadhel Ismail, Polisario representative in France declared that the construction of "walls" cannot resolve the conflict between the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) and Morocco but constitutes, on the contrary an obstruction to a political settlement. Commenting [on] the erection in Western Sahara of a new wall which King Hassan II announced recently the completion, Mr Fadhel Ismail pointed out that the "barren policy" of the Moroccan regime will not prevent the People's Liberation Army from deal heavy blows at the occupation forces.

Polisario representative underlined on the other turn that King Hassan II is highly preoccupied by the Moroccan Army.

"The Moroccan Army and people won't be deceived any longer" Mr Fadhel Ismail said, pointed out that the Saharan people will know on his side how to prove the inanity of the king policy and the pride of withdrawal of the Moroccan troops he concluded.

KENYA

Foreign Reports on North Kenya Questioned

EA121702 Nairobi THE KENYA TIMES in English 12 May 84 p 6

[Editorial article: "Press Must End This Speculation"]

[Text] We fail to understand why the foreign press keeps hammering on the situation in northern Kenya. Foreign journalists based on Kenya know as well as the wananchi that the country is and has always been peaceful and that our development, spirit and activities have grown from strength to strength. The press also knows that the situation in northern Kenya has been generally tranquil except for isolated incidents of fighting by small bands of tribesmen and cattle rustlers. The president had personally visited northern Kenya on occasions to raise funds and inspire the people of the area towards unity and development.

We wonder why the foreign press has chosen to ignore the official statements which have been issued on two occasions by the government regarding the situation in Wajir.

On both occasions the government made it very clear that the situation was under control and that Kenya's regular armed forces and police have been permanently positioned in the district and are effective in keeping law and order between the feuding ethnic groups.

There has never been a mass murder or massacre in the area. Only a total of 57, and not 300, people have died in the tribal clashes. Only a week ago a minister of state in the office of the president, Mr Justus Ole Tipis, addressed a mammoth peaceful crowd in Wajir township. He announced to the crowd the intention of the head of state to make another tour of the district in the near future. This itself is enough evidence of the state of security and political calm in the area.

The government has urged the Wajir district commissioner to form a committee of local leaders and elders to investigate further the cause of persistent animosity between the feuding tribal groups. Their findings will be communicated to the government for action. Police and the administration are working day and night to unearth those still holding on to arms illegally.

Those writing distorted stories about the situation in the north are engaging in a useless and futile exercise of trying to smear Kenya's good international image. Their mission is ill-fated. They should be called upon to account for their sources of information before law courts whenever they can be identified.

Foreign correspondents are known to be the authors of foreign persistent rumors that some senior officials have been forced to go on leave for their alleged part in the Wajir problem.

It is the duty of the government to transfer civil servants to any part of the republic wherever their services are required. Transfer of and leave by public servants are normal practices all over the world, and the aim is the attainment of maximum efficiency in the running and administration of any system. Kenya will continue to deploy its personnel freely in the interests of productivity and smooth operation. This applies to all districts in the country, including Wajir.

Briefs

Envoy to France — Paris May 11 — Kenya's new ambassador to France, Mr B.E. Mwangi, today presented his credentials to President Mitterrand of France. [Nairobi KNA in English 1800 GMT 11 May 84 EA]

SOMALIA

Barre Receives Romanian Visitor, Ceausescu Message

EA091528 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre received at the presidency here in Mogadishu this morning the visiting Romanian minister, Challe Marin Capisizu, state secretary for agriculture and food industry, and his delegation. The Romanian delegation paid a courtesy call on the SDR president and delivered a message from President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Challe Nicolae Ceausescu.

Challe Siad and the head of the Romanian delegation discussed bilateral cordial relations and friendly ties, particularly the cooperation in funding agricultural projects in the SDR which is the outcome of earlier talks between the presidents of the SDR and of the Socialist Republic of Romania here in Mogadishu.

SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre wished the Romanian delegation farewell and asked them to deliver his hearty greetings to the president, the government, and the people of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Present during the cordial conversation between the SDR President and Romanian delegation were senior SDR officials and the Romanian ambassador to the SDR.

Radio Halgan Views Somali Student Opposition

EA122227 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Somali students in the capital of the country, Mogadishu, continue with their strong opposition to the policies of the Mogadishu regime. Reports reaching us from Mogadishu say that after the regime recently arrested many Somali students at schools in Benadir Region, students in the capital started to show support for those students thrown into torture chambers.

At the end of April, prompted by students of Benadir school, and from the technical institute of Benadir Region, students in the capital started demonstrations strongly criticizing the ugly policies pursued by the so-called Ministry of Education, and the regime's policies in general. The regime arrested several students from those schools, since strong opposition by the students to the general policies of Barre regime has continued.

The reports add that parents of the students secretly smuggle out information to Amnesty International.

Reports reaching us from Mogadishu add that it is believed that the regime might (?cease) drafting the 6,000 graduating students for military service. At the same time the reports add that in the last 2 years, all students who graduated from the schools, the higher schools, and universities are on the street without jobs, and the regime has no place for them.

The reports add that senior officers of the regime's Ministry of Education have criticized the regime for its continuous interference in the ministry's internal affairs.

In response to this, the minister for education in the regime, (Shuke) Abdille (Odwein) (his nickname) [proper name is Abd ar-Rahman Abdille Osman] made representations to the leader of the regime, General Siad Barre, on behalf of the senior officers of the ministry for the regime to stop interfering in matters concerning the Ministry of Education.

In reply the leader of the Mogadishu regime, General Mohamed Siad Barre, said the students have become elements opposed to the 21 October Revolution and are antirevolutionary, and as usual, he said they are working for reactionary elements and foreign powers opposed to the revolution.

TANZANIA

East Afican Leaders Arrive in Arusha for Summit

Nyerere Arrives

EA132136 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] President Nyerere arrived in Arusha this afternoon for tomorrow's summit of the three East African heads of state. Immediately after his arrival, he went to Monduli Juu where he held talks with the parents of the late prime minister, Edward Moringe Sokoine, who died in a car crash last month.

According to the summit program released in Arusha today, President Milton Obote of Uganda will arrive in Arusha tomorrow morning, and will be met by President Nyerere. President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya will travel to Arusha via Namanga and will be met by the prime minister, Ndugu Salim.

Kenya's Moi Arrives

EA141503 Nairobi KNA in English 1017 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpts] Arusha, May 14: President Daniel arap Moi arrived in Arusha shortly after 12 noon to join Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Milton Obote of Uganda for mediation talks.

On arrival at the Mount Meru Hotel, President Moi was given a hearty and red carpet reception by President Nyerere. After thiscolourful reception, presidents Moi, Nyerere, and Obote entered into priv :te consultations at the hotel.

The summit meeting of the East African heads of state is scheduled to begin at 1430 this afternoon at the Arusha International Conference Centre.

Consultations Begin

EA141507 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 14 May 84

[Excerpt] Arusha — The leaders of Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda have started private consultations in Arusha, and are later today expected to sign a final agreement on the distribution of the assets and liabilities of the East African Community, which was dissolved in 1977. Reliable sources say a full report will be released after the meeting of the leaders ends today.

Czechoslovakia's Chnoupek Expresses Support

EA141152 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Ndugu Bohuslav Chnoupek, who is visiting Tanzania, has hailed Tanzania's contribution towards strengthening international relations, and particularly the struggle against apartheid and colonialism.

Ndugu Chnoupek, who arrived in Dar es Salaam yesterday for a 5-day visit, described Tanzania as a firm defender of peace, and said his country supports its efforts to build socialism.

Referring to the situation in southern Africa, Chnoupek said his country regarded UN Resolution 435 as the only means of bringing about Namibian independence, which was occupied by force by the Boer regime of South Africa.

He said the Czechoslovak people supported the idea of solving Africa's problems by peaceful means.

He said his visit to Tanzania would enable him to hold discussions with government officials on various issues, particularly on developing bilateral economic and cultural cooperation.

The minister, who is heading a four-man delegation, today will visit Dar es Salaam University's art gallery, and will meet the mayor of Dar es Salaam. The leader will also call on the secretary general of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Ndugu Rashidi Kawawa, in Dar es Salaam.

On Tuesday he will leave for Arusha, where he is expected to meet Mwalimu Nyerere and later to hold talks with Prime Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives Message From Nigeria's Buhari

AB121420 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, this afternoon received a special envoy in the person of General Olusegun Obasanjo from his Nigerian counterpart, General Muhammadu Buhari. Gen Obasanjo was at the head of a delegation that included Nigeria's ambassador in Cameroon, Alhaji Hamzat Ahmadu, and the director at the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry. Gen Olusegun Obasanjo was bearer of an undisclosed message to the head of state.

CHAD

Hernu, Chadian Envoy View Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks

PM150852 Paris LE MONDE in French 13-14 May 84 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Colonel al-Qadhdhafi Is Preparing To Pull Back in Order To Pounce More Easily"]

[Text] "Colonel al-Qadhdhafi wants to improve his increasingly tarnished image on the international stage, and his new statement on a withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad is consistent with that," Mr Allah-Mi, Chadian ambassador in Paris, said Friday, 14 May.

"Unfortunately, some people will see that as a positive factor," Mr Allah-Mi said, and added: "When Al-Qadhdhafi claims he will withdraw his troops that invaded Chad in contempt of the people's right, he is probably preparing to pull back merely to pounce more easily. That was the case in 1981, and will be the case in 1984, given the man's doubie-dealing and his permanent expansionist policy toward Chad.

"The scenario is well known: withdrawing the troops in Tibesti, pending more favorable circumstances that his diplomatic apparatus and special services will have to prepare. According to Al-Qadhdhafi, this should mean the withdrawal of all friendly military support for Chad, and the resumption of the fratricidal war. Moreover, Al-Qadhdhafi, who has constantly tried to make people believe in the existence of a Franco-Libyan condominium over Chad, hopes to lead Paris toward a peace imposed on the Chadians — a king of diktat consecrating the country's de facto partition.

"Peace in Chad depends much more on specific security arrangements against the Libyan regime's expansionist policy than on lies and statements that play for time."

Mr Charles Hernu, for his part, merely stated: "Col al-Qadhdhafi's statement followed another recent, equally interesting statement in which he admitted, for the first time, the presence of his troops in Chad." The defense minister added: "The French troops in Chad are in a much better position with regard to their base than the Libyan Army is with regard to its base."

Paris is adopting a cautious attitude to the new statements, while stressing interest in negotiations for convening a new inter-Chadian conference in Brazzaville. The stumbling block in these negotiations is the fact that GUNT (former Transitional National Union Government) would like the conference to take place at the faction leader's level, whereas President Hissein Habre wants to see a preparatory conference held first. Congolese President Mr Sassou Nguesso has, moreover, apparently come around to this idea. In addition, the tension between the Chadian opposition and Libya is still observed to be very acute, and many people are still defecting from the GUNT.

GUNT Issues Communique on Reconciliation Prospects

AB142157 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 14 May 84

["Press Communique" from the Presidency of the Transitional National Union Government of Chad (GUNT) issued in Bardai — date not given]

[Text] While the prospects of a conference on peace and national reconciliation in Chad was beginning to be clearly seen, and while the GUNT was expressing happiness over the resumption of interest in the lot of the martyred Chadian people, the French imperialists and their protege, Hissein Habre's fan, are actively trying to put obstacles on the path to a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem. In fact, some contacts of the French Government and the Ndjamena clique, which apparently aim at a negotiated settlement in the Chadian conflict, are in reality some dilatory maneuvers aimed at delaying any solutions.

The GUNT, having freely and willingly opted for the negotiated path, has spared no effort or concession on the diplomatic level to help bring about a favorable condition for a peace conference. It is at this juncture that it clearly appeared that France is torpedoing every effort made by GUNT: It is clear that France will not accept any peace, reconciliation, or stability in Chad, except on the one condition that it gets guarantees for its imperialist and neocolonialist interests in Chad.

Not content with its military occupation of a part of the country and the systematic violation of its territorial integrity by drawing a red line, the French Administration has moved further to attain its neocolonialist dreams in Chad — the violation of the State of Chad's unity by a strong federalism, which is dear to both Giscard d'Estaing and Mitterrand. It is toward this end that Paris uses its relations and its friends to try to take the OAU out of the Chadian issue. As for the protege of France, the masters of Ndjamena — they are playing the French tune by increasing their application for mediation in various African capitals to create a spirit of competition and race, mainly in the progressive African countries. Ostensibly meant to solve the conflict, in reality all the hullabaloo being made by the Ndjamena clique for the imperialists are only dilatory maneuvers aimed at compromising any chances for serious negotiations.

No one has any doubts about the duplicity and scornfulness of the FAN. But why are they trying to keep the OAU out of the Chadian conflict, whereas that organization still has the competence to handle the issue and has not exhausted its efforts at

finding a solution within its framework? Even at its last ministerial council meeting at the beginning of last March, the OAU reaffirmed that it has competence over the Chadian issue. What guarantees does France dare ask again? As for us, GUNT, we declare that our objectives are clear, and fundamentally inherent in the supreme interest of the Chadian nation and people: civil peace, political democracy, and social justice are essential bases for any harmonious economic and cultural development in a true national independence.

Should we believe that it is these objectives that frighten the French imperialists and their lackeys in Ndjamena? In any case, there is no importance in that since the GUNT is determined to attain its objectives by all means and whatever the prize. GUNT's sincere desire to find a peaceful solution to the issue, and its total readiness to negotiate with the FAN, is not a sign of weakness as some would like to point out.

Having fought imperialism and the Chadian reaction for decades in order to conquer its freedom and dignity, the Chadian people, far from being tired, are ready to endure more suffering and make further sacrifices. All these are prices for them to pay.

The GUNT, while strongly denouncing the French imperialist maneuvers aimed at prolonging the suffering of the Chadian people, reaffirms its full and total readiness to negotiate without any preconditions under the auspices of the chairman of the OAU, with the head of the FAN.

Issued in Bardai

Goukouni Denounces Attack Against Al-Qadhdhafi
AB141420 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 MT 12 May 84

[Message from GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of the abortive "terrorist" attack in Tripoli]

[Text] We are not surprised to learn about the terrorist attempt against your person by imperialism and reaction, which are the enemies of the revolution. We know you are the bitter enemy of imperialism and reaction because you are an impassable obstacle to the unappeased ambitions of imperialism, which wants to dominate, enslave, and exploit young nations.

Because they are short-sighted, imperialists think that through your physical elimination they can put an end to the revolution. But they have forgotten that the Al-Fatih revolution is omnipresent, and that it is active everywhere, defending liberty and independence. This is because the seeds of the September Revolution have germinated and taken root in the soul of every revolutionary fighting for the justice of his people.

We strongly denounce this terrorits action and assure the Libyan people and their leaders that the Chadian people and their government are on their side everywhere and (?ready) to help them in their efforts and their stand against international imperialism and combined reaction.

Keep on going ahead! We are with you! Victory is on our side!

Signed: Goukouni Oueddei, president of the GUNT and head of state

Bardai, 9 May 1984

GUINEA

Traore Returns, Reviews Foreign Tour

AB121045 Conakry Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Colonel Diara Traore, prime minister and head of the government, paid a goodwill visit to some African and Asian countries from 30 April to 10 May 1984. Upon his arrival in Conakry, Col Diara Traore took stock of his trip.

[Begin Traore recording] I would first of all, on behalf of the president of the republic, express our gratitude to all the friendly governments that received our goodwill mission. As you all know, I left Conakry on 30 April at the head of a delegation including the minister of foreign affairs. This delegation was charged by the president of the republic and the Military Committee for National Redress to explain the prevailing situation in Guinea, and the motives for the Army takeover in Guinea.

We visited 10 countries and our delegation was accorded very warm, enthusiastic, and cordial receptions. On the whole, and without exaggeration, we can say that our delegation has honorably carried out its mission. We held discussions with all the governments on bilateral, inter-African and international issues. As I said earlier, I explained why the Army had to take power in Guinea. I must say that our trip was very beneficial, because all these governments showed much understanding and expressed their firm support.

On the level of cooperation, we have returned to Guinea full of hope to see cooperation increase in the future. We also hope to see the further strengthening of friendly ties between Guinea and these countries in the future. We have therefore returned with a good harvest of hope in the bright future of our country. We are certain that in a few months time we shall see a true transformation of the Guinean society, thanks to this good cooperation that we henceforth wish to establish, not only with African countries, but also with all countries of the world.

The trip was very fruitful. The reception accorded us in all these countries enabled us to portray well the new Guinea. This has also helped increase our credibility abroad and has given a new impetus to our future cooperation with various governments. Thank you. [end recording]

Guy Penne Leads French Technological Delegation

Arrives 12 May

AB131015 Conakry Domestic Service in French
0915 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] An eight-member French delegation, led by Mr Guy Penne, adviser on African affairs to the president of the French Republic, arrived late Saturday evening in Conakry. Official talks start this Sunday, 13 May 1984. The French delegation will be received by the prime minister and by the president of the republic.

Concludes Conakry Visit

AB141814 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Guy Penne [President Mitterrand's adviser for African and Malagasy affairs] and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Guinea on Saturday 12 May, left Conakry today. Abdoulaye Damien Diallo, you covered the visit of the French delegation to Guinea.

[Begin recording] [Diallo] The delegation of French technicians and experts, led by Guy Penne, left Conakry on Monday, 14 May 1984, at 0800 on board a special Mystere-20 plane of the Elysee. This delegation was seen off at the Conakry-Gbesia Airport by a large delegation of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN], and the government, led by Facine Toure, minister of foreign affairs.

During their 36-hour stay in our country, the top French officials took our economy's pulse and made a diagnosis. Henceforth, Paris has an overall view and broad knowledge of Guinea's short-, medium- and long-term needs. These were well noted, and Guy Penne assured the Guinean side of his total preparedness to convey the wishes expressed by the Guinean government in favorable terms.

Perhaps one wonders why no documents were signed between the two delegations. The fact is that the French delegation is entirely made up of technicians and experts. Therefore, the Paris envoys were here on an information-gathering mission to identify priorities and to report on them. It is important to know that consultations that have just been held have opened the way for negotiations between the two countries.

In any case, the results of the deliberations constitute a success in themselves, for all the participants agreed that this is a good start. This is the outstanding point in the statements of the delegations' heads at the end of the talks. A feeling of success and a desire for cooperation were the principal points in the statement made by Captain Facine Toure, our minister of foreign affairs.

[Toure] The just-ended talks further illustrated the great friendship between the French and Guinean peoples. We are very happy to observe that you heard our call and that it had the desired effects. We consider the report just presented to us by the small group, as Mr Guy Penne calls it, as a good result, because beyond what we already perceive and can consider as an achievement, the recommendations made, and the advice given will help and strengthen us in our undertakings.

We know also that only friends can give you good advice, and for this too we sincerely thank you. Your good disposition no longer needs to be demonstrated and this does not surprise us at all. We had the occasion to tell Mr Guy Penne this morning: We come to you without any calculations or reservations; you can rely on this.

I even added that although today we are leaders, we are first soldiers, and the language of diplomacy is not our true weapon. This means that we will always be direct, especially with our

friends, and we are happy to note that you are doing the same with us. What has just been done was, as I have just said, the result of the great friendship that you have for our people and your desire to see us emerge from the present situation. [end Toure recording]

Guy Penne talked in the same vein and praised the courage and maturity of the CMRN.

[Penne] I think this is also the view of all French people here,and of all those who have been familiar with Guinea for more or less a long time. We wish you a lot of courage and success. In fact, I think that what counts is our two peoples and our traditional friendship. Moreover, I think it is the desire of the two peoples to sometimes rise above the accidents states can experience, and above the various concerns of governments. I will not add anything because I think that you have touched the points perfectly, and that we have fully understood the magnitude of the task ahead of you. It is not for us to judge it but we have a lot of esteem for you in your undertakings. Believe me that in France, the wisdom and restraint with which you and the other state officials we have had the opportunity to hear, has impressed the entire world. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Return to Constitutional Life Reported

AB141148 Paris AFP in French 1222 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Bissau, 13 May (AFP) — On Monday Guinea-Bissau will return to normal constitutional life, 3 and 1/2 years after the 14 November 1980 coup against President Luiz Cabral's regime, which led to the suspension of the Constitution.

The People's National Assembly, made up of 150 members elected from among regional counsellors, will meet for the first time on Monday to adopt a new constitution. The Assembly, which is the supreme organ of power according to the new fundamental laws of the state to be adopted, will then elect from its ranks an executive bureau, known as the Council of State. This elected bureau will comprise 15 members and its president will become the head of state and government, and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

There is no doubt that 45-year old General Joao Bernardo Vieira, Guinea-Bissau's leader since the coup d'etat, will be elected to this post. "Nino" or "Kabi," as he is popularly called in Guinea-Bissau, after taking the oath of office, will have the task of forming a new government politically accountable to the National Assembly the Council of State.

As compared to the former constitution, the current draft constitution has several innovations. The post of prime minister has been abolished while two posts of vice president and one post of secretary have been created.

A week ago, it was not certain whether vice presidential posts would be created. The draft only provided for one vice president who, according to the text, "shall coordinate an area of government activities to be assigned him, if necessary, by the president of the Council of State." According to militants that challenged its necessity, the vice presidency would only be an honorary post that will bring to an end a conflict in the top hierachy, as happened in 1980.

The 14 November 1980 coup notably led to the adoption of a new constituion that assigned no important role to Major "Nino" Vieira, then prime minister, since power was essentially concentrated in the hands of the head of state, Mr Luiz Cabral.

The apprehensions voiced by the militants were well founded: Last March the second man in power, Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria, tried to topple the regime by engaging in "divisionist activities." He and two other ministers who, according to investigations, supported him, were dismissed and expelled from the party. Three other persons, including a government member, were suspended for the same reasons.

After discussions were held on the draft constitution at the grassroots and top levels of the party, the principle of creating two vice preidential posts was accepted, giving them more specific prerogatives. Thus the vice presidents, temporarily and according to the order of precedence, will be charged with the duty of replacing the president of the Council of State in case of his absence abroad, sickness or death. However, they cannot, during this interim period [words indistinct] the Supreme Court.

In case of a vacancy in the presidency of the Council of State, the National Assembly, at the proposal of the Central Committee of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde [PAIGC], will proceed within 15 days with the election of a new president whose mandate ends with the current legislature, according to the draft constitution.

The names most frequently cited for vice presidential posts are Mr Paulo Correia and Mr Carlos Correia. Mr Paulo Correia, a colonel and member of the ruling Revolutionary Council, currently hold the post of minister of rural development after serving as minister of defense and veterans affairs. Mr Carlos Correia, is an economist. He previously served as minister of planning and natural resources, then as minister of finance before taking up his current appointment as minister of trade.

With regard to the regime's orientations, a return to constitutional life will not bring any changes. The PAIGC which, since the 14 November coup, is only made up of militants of Guinea-Bissau, (Cape Verde has decided to set up its own party), remains the leading political force in the society and state.

The party, which led the liberation struggle against Portuguese colonialism, is constitutionally charged with "setting up general guidelines for the drawing up of political, economic, social and cultural, and security and defense programs, and to select candidates for the regional councils and National Assembly."

Still with regard to principles, Guinea-Bissau is a "democratic, secular, unitary, anticolonialist, and anti-imperialist" republic.

According to the constitution, it is "a national revolutionary and democratic state", which wants to build "a society free from the exploitation of man by man."

The new government team that will be formed after the adoption of the constitution, and which will very likely not include the three ministers suspended from the party, will have as its main duty the need to achieve the objectives of the financial and economic recovery plan drawn up last year, in order to resolve the great economic difficulties that face the country 10 years after its independence. In this connection, it has marked as an important topic on its timetable the next "roundtable" meeting of financial backers shceduled to meet in Lisbon to discuss Guinea-Bissau, one of the world's poorest countries, but which nevertheless has a large potential of agricultural and mineral resources.

NIGERIA

Lagos Military Tribunal Begins Formal Sitting

AB141625 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Lagos Zone Special Military Tribunal on the Recovery of Public Property began its formal sitting today at Bonny Camp in Lagos. The tribunal has five members with Brigadier Paul Omu as chairman. Brig Omu said at the opening session that the tribunal would fully apply the provisions of the Recovery of Public Property Special Military Tribunals Decrees 3 and 8 of 1984, which were the applicable substantive law.

He stated that matters of procedure would be decided in accordance with the provisions of Schedule Two to the decree. But when there was a vacuum in the schedule on any procedural matter, the tribunal would apply the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, with such modifications as circumstances might require. The chairman also said that the tribunal would apply the provisions of the Evidence Act with required modifications. Each accused person would be entitled to defend himself in person or by someone of his choice, who should be a legal practitioner resident in the country. Brig Omu remarked that any accused who was charged with an offense which carried a life imprisonment sentence would have a legal practitioner assigned by the tribunal to defend him if he had no means to employ a legal practitioner. Every person testifying before the tribunal could either affirm or subscribe to an oath in accordance with his religious belief.

The tribunal chairman said that every accused person would be served with the charge and summary of evidence in respect of the case against him before the commencement of his trial. This was to make sure that an accused person knew the case he was coming to meet before his plea should be taken.

Brig Omu gave the assurance that the tribunal would ensure that every accused person had the opportunity to consult with his counsel for the purpose of his defense. He reiterated that the trial would be held in camera, but assured that [words indistinct] the judgement would be given in public when the time came. He said that the tribunal was excercising such discretion not unilaterally, but judicuously, in accordance with civil court procedures. The instrument instituting the tribunal and others located in Enugu, Jos, Kaduna, and Ibadan, was (?signed) by the head of state on 1 April.

Stricter Border Control To Halt Currency Smuggling

AB141152 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The recent change in the color of the country's currency was necessary to ensure strict compliance with the exchange control laws and regulations. It was also necessary to stem the illegal exportation and counterfeit of the naira. The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, gave this explanation when speaking yesterday in the Radio Nigeria public affairs program "Matters of the Moment". Brig Idiagbon said if the situation had been allowed to continue, it would have rendered ineffective and frustrating any measures aimed at revitalizing the economy. He stated that there were calculated efforts to destabilize the economy, thereby imposing hardship on the people.

The value of the currency, either deposited or exchanged, he said, will be announced later today. Brig Idiagbon stated that the government intended to introduce a number of measures to police the country's borders more effectively to check illegal transfer in the naira. These included the installation of x-ray equipment at all international airports to examine on a 100 percent basis all passenger luggage arriving or leaving the country.

241 Arrested

AB141630 Lagos NAN in English 1600 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Kaduna, May 14 (NAN) — The Kaduna area administrator of the Department of Customs and Excise, Alhaji Abdu Toro, has said that 241 persons were arrested at various border posts while trying to enter the country from Niger Republic during the currency exchange. Alhaji Abdu told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) on Saturday, that 141,215 naira in the old naira notes and an equivalent of N3,829.80 in CFA francs were seized from the persons.

The area administrator said that a team of soldiers, customs, immigration, and security officials who maintained surveillance at the border posts also deported 60 nationals of neighbouring countries from the Dankama post, near Katsina. He said that following the closure of Nigerian border during the currency exchange a Nigerian suspected to be operating "a currency exchange center at Baba Mutum border post was arrested and about N250,000 recovered from him." Alhaji Abdu said that the arrests and seizures took place at Dankama, Jbiya, Kongolam, Zango, and Baba Mutum border posts between April 25 and May 6.

FMG To Try Politicians 'In Camera'

AB141551 Lagos NAN in English 1545 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Abeokuta, May 14 (NAN) — The minister of justice and attorney-general of the federation, Mr Chike Ofodile, yesterday in Abeokuta said that the Federal Military Government [FMG] would not rescind its decision to try all the detained politicians in camera.

Mr Ofodile said in a television interview that the government had a good reason for the decision and "there is no going back on that decision." He said that the decision of the Nigeria Bar Association to boycott the tribunals would not stop the trial from going on. "The accused persons have been given opportunities to defend themselves and all that they should do is to avail themselves of these opportunities," he added.

On the extradition of politicians who fled abroad, the minister said that the government would frame [as received] charges against them, support such charges with affidavits, and channel them to the countries harbouring them. He said that such countries were free to decide what to do, and that there was nothing Nigeria could do.

Delegation Leaves for Dialogue in Scandinavia
AB111125 Lagos NAN in English 1107 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 11 (NAN) — A 12-member Nigerian delegation left Lagos yesterday for Stockholm for the second round of a special five-day foreign policy dialogue with the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, a spokesman for the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Hamid Balogun, said in a statement yesterday.

The statement said that the dialogue would also involve the Danish Foreign Policy Society and the Finnish Institute of Foreign Affairs. It added that the delegation, which was led by the director-general of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Prof Gabriel Olusanya, included a director, Prof Rafiu Akindele.

Also in the delegation are an economist with the United Bank for Africa, Isaac Aluko-Olokun; Prof Oye Baire of the University of Benin; Prof Isawa Elaigwu of the University of Jos, and Clement Baiye of the *NEW NIGERIAN* newspapers.

The first round of the Nigerian-Scandinavian foreign policy dialogue was held in Lagos in 1981. The delegation is expected back in Lagos on May 20.

Chad's Habre Expected To Make 1-Day Visit
AB141515 Lagos NAN in English 1510 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Abuja, May 14 (NAN) — President Hissein Habre of Chad is expected in Abuja tomorrow on a one-day visit to Nigeria. He will be met at the Abuja International Airport by the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, members of the Supreme Military Council and members of the Federal Executive Council.

According to the programme for the visit, the Borno military governor is also expected to be present at the airport ceremonies. President Habre will hold talks with Maj Gen Buhari before leaving for home.

Minister Comments on Preparations for Hadj Pilgrimage
AB130908 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpt] The Federal Government has announced the number of pilgrims that will perform this year's hadj. The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, told journalists in Lagos yesterday that 20,000 of those who had never gone on the pilgrimage would be allowed to undertake the journey. Dr Gambari explained the number was equitably shared out on pro-rata basis, based on the percentage of total number of Muslim pilgrims from each state in the last 5 years. The minister announced that the number of Christian pilgrims for this year has also been pegged at 1,224. He stated that the Basic Traveling Allowance [BTA] of 800 naira has been approved for both Muslims and Christian pilgrims.

Dr Gambari pointed out that the government had directed that only three commercial banks were authorized to transact business with the pilgrims with regards to their BTA. They are the First Bank of Nigeria, United Bank for Africa, and the Union Bank of Nigeria.

The minister said that in view of the time factor, the executive secretary of the Pilgrims Welfare Board had been directed to commence without further delay all the necessary arrangements for the hadj operations. Dr Gambari made clear that the Federal Government expected military governors to take charge of the supervision and arrangements for the hadj operations in their areas. It announced that the government had approved the appointment of new members of the Pilgrim Welfare Board with Alhaji Ibrahim Magaji Bello as chairman. Other members are Alhaji A.S. Susu, Alhaji Shayck Ali Abdula Adams, Ambassador A.M.S. Iman, will serve as the secretary, and the Muslim leader from the eastern zone, whose name will be announced later.

Kano Governor on Limits to Freedom of Press
AB111018 Lagos NAN in English 1000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Kano, may 10 (NAN) — The Kano State military governor, Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi, said in Kano today the Federal Military Government enacted Decree Number 4 to compel journalists to publish only the truth.

Opening the educational and laboratory center of mass communication at the Bayero University, Air Commodore Abdullahi said that it was not the intention of the government to descend heavily on the press, adding that they realised the important role the press played in the development of the country.

The governor remarked that journalists in the country had overemphasised the (?idea) of freedom of the press, noting that press freedom was not and could not be something absolute. "While the Nigerian media is justified in striving for maximum freedom of the press, it has also got to bear in mind that the degree of freedom they would expect to enjoy would depend entirely on our perception of the country's stability, peace, harmony and security needs," he said.

He further said that "no responsible government would compromise the inetrests of 100 million people for the sake of keeping 10,000 or so media practitioners happy."

Air Commodore Abdullahi observed that the Nigerian media made too little information available to the public and that it dissipated a considerable proportion of its energy and resources on trivialities rather than substance.

The governor also said that the Nigerian media had built a reputation for condemning what they did not like, adding that their reaction to any kind of criticism, "is alien to civilised society."

He urged the university to consider the possibility of introducing short-term diploma courses for candidates who could not satisfy the entry requirements for degree courses.

Thatcher Meeting With Pieter Botha Viewed

AB111248 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] "Blood is thicker than water," goes an old adage. This perhaps epitomizes Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's invitation to her racist South African counterpart, Pieter Botha, to visit Britain next month.

Under normal circumstances there should be nothing peculiar about Botha's visit to London. But what is intriguing about it is that it is coming at a time when opposition to apartheid — the system that helps to maintain Botha and his racist cohorts in office — is very strong. In fact the surprising aspect of the whole thing is the controversy that the visit has generated within Great Britain itself. While public opinion is against the visit, a few well-placed individuals are in favor because of the business contacts they hope to make, and the material benefits they stand to gain therefrom.

The controversy has gained momentum in the past few days, so much so that Thatcher has been forced to defend her invitation to Mr Botha. The argument had been that Mrs Thatcher was by implication condoning apatheid. The Labor Party, which is spearheading the opposition to the visit, believes that Mrs Thatcher's invitation is tantamount to endorsing South Africa's policy of racial segregation. Paradoxically, Mrs Thatcher is telling the world that by talking to Botha, the racists would be influenced to change their system and increase the opportunity for all the people of South Africa. She would convince Botha to get rid of apartheid, which Britain did not like and condemned. Unfortunately, Verwoerd made a similar trip to Britain in 1961. But up till now apartheid has remained and has even become more vicious in its oppressive and discriminating methods.

Britain is one of the five Western nations making up the so-called Contact Group trying to negotiate with South Africa over the issue of independence for Namibia, a territory the racists are illegally holding in defiance of UN resolutions. If South Africa can defy the United Nations and the whole world community on the issue of Namibian independence, then one wonders what effect Botha's visit to Britain and consequently the results of their talks will have on the racist South African Government.

Of course reference may be made to the fact that South Africa had made peace with Mozambique and Angola. The result of the peace pacts between these two countries and South Africa is yet to be visible. Therefore a conclusion on this is too early to be drawn now. The question is whether the pact is in favor of Angola and Mozambique on the one hand, or racist South Africa on the other, or both. The fact remains however that South Africa had a different motive behind her ostensible show of flexibility. It is therefore inconceivable to think that Britain can singlehandedly talk Botha into agreeing to dismantle South Africa's agressive, but clear-footed [as heard] system. Of course maybe Britons will bring their blood relation into play in their talks with South African Prime Minister Botha. But will the Boers go along back home in Pretoria? We doubt if they will.

Press Views Nigerian, Soviet Participation in Olympics

AB120915 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 12 May 84

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The *GUARDIAN* renews its earlier suggestion for Nigerian athletes to boycott the forthcoming Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The paper bases its contention on the attitude of the British Government toward apartheid South Africa. Concluding, the *GUARDIAN* remarks that Nigeria's boycott of the Olympic Games will prove her determination to continue to supporting the isolation of South Africa from all respectable international gatherings.

The *PUNCH*, in its second editorial, comments on the Soviet's withdrawal from the forthcoming Los Angeles Olympic games. The paper does not support the reasons advanced by the USSR for pulling out of the games.

SIERRA LEONE

Improvement in Relations With Iran Noted

AB140837 Paris AFP in French 1102 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Freetown, 11 May (AFP) — Relations between Iran and Sierra Leone have steadily continued to improve in the months since December, observers in Freetown point out. In fact, there are several indications that the Iranian regime is eager to become a very close ally of this small West African country situated between Liberia and Guinea. To this effect an Iran-Sierra Leone friendship organization has been set up in Freetown. Its chairman, Mr Dixon Mansaray, was recently received by the Sierra Leonean minister of social affairs, who is also in charge of religious affairs, to whom the chairman defined the aims and objectives of the new association.

Moreover, there have been many contacts between Iranian and Sierra Leonean top officials. It is in this context that an Iranian delegation, led by Ayatollah Khomeyni's special envoy, went to

Sierra Leone last February on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was received by Mr A.B. Kamara, the Sierra Leonean minister of trade and industry.

In March another special Iranian envoy brought a message from Tehran to, Mr Sorie Ibrahim Koroma, acting on behalf of President Siaka Stevens (who was absent).

Thus the two sides restated their support for the "Muslims in Lebanon". In addition, the two sides reaffirmed their support for the Muslim people of the Western Sahara, and for their independence struggle.

Although Sierra Leone recognized the SDAR in 1980, it has since belonged to the "moderate" group of OAU countries.

The condemnation of any attempt to resume diplomatic relations with Israel in this joint communique also surprised observers in the sense that hitherto, many were of the opinion that Sierra Leone was among those countries that were likely to reestablish relations with Israel, more or less on a long-term basis, as its neighbor Liberia has done.

Despite all these "concessions" made in favor of Iran, periodically Sierra Leone shows its concern to reassure its other partners, especially Saudi Arabia, which also gives Sierra Leone substantial aid.

Futhermore, observers note that Freetown has not yet condemned Baghdad in its conflict with Tehran. Such a condemnation would surely gladden the hearts of Iranian authorities, and would be a great boost to the romance between Iran and Sierra Leone, which would very likely disturb Freetown's other partners.

TOGO

Cooperation Agreements Signed with Bulgaria, DPRK

AB111453 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 11 May 84

[Text]Cooperation agreements were signed in Lome this morning between Togo and Bulgaria, and between Togo and the DPRK. The Togolese-Bulgarian agreement was signed for Togo by Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and for Bulgaria by Kostadin Gyaurov, the country's ambassador in Lome. The second agreement was signed for Togo by Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo and for the DPRK by that country's ambassador to Togo, Kim Hyong-sam.

The agreement with Bulgaria concerns a program of scientific, cultural and technical cooperation. According to a press communique, the purpose of this agreement and program is to promote the development of exchanges between Togo and Bulgaria in the fields of science, education, arts, culture, public health, sports and information. They respond to the desire of the two countries to strengthen their relations of friendship and cooperation. According to this agreement and program and as far as science and education are concerned, Bulgaria will grant every year two bursaries to Togolese citizens to study in Bulgarian universities or institutes. The two countries will also exchange lists of publications in their national libraries. In the field of arts and culture, the two countries will exchange musical compositions as well as information concerning the general literary and cultural life of both states. As far as information is concerned, the two countries will exchange journalists and writers who will write reports about the two countries. They will also facilitate the establishment of direct contacts between their respective radio and television services. In the field of public health, the two countries will exchange doctors or specialists at the request of either of the two parties. Finally, in the field of sports, the two countries will promote the exchange of sporting groups or teams.

At the end of the ceremony, our minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and the Bulgarian ambassador expressed their pleasure at the good relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two states and hoped that they will be further intensified and strengthened for the greatest good of the two peoples.

The second agreement signed this morning concerns post and telecommunications. According to the press communique, its purpose is to strengthen the political, economic and cultural relations existing between the two countries. The cooperation agreement covers all fields of post and telecommunications: telegrams, telephone communication, telex, postal packets, postal services including the dispatch of letters and the mutual exchange of new postage stamps.

At the end of the ceremony, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and the DPRK ambassador expressed their pleasure at the good relations of friendship and cooperation which have existed between our two countries for many years and hoped that they will be further intensified and strengthened for the greatest good of the two peoples. Edouard Aithnard, permanent secretary of the Post and Telecommunications Department, was present at the ceremony to sign this agreement between Togo and the DPRK.

PRC Youth Delegation Arrives in Lome 9 May

AB111306 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 10 May 84

[Excerpts] A delegation of the Chinese Communist Youth League [CYL] yesterday arrived in Lome on a visit of information concerning the realities of the Togolese youth of the new deal. The three-member delegation — led by Mrs Liu Yandong, secretary of the CYL, and accompanied by the Chinese ambassador to Togo. [name indistinct] — went early this morning to the headquarters of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] where it had discussions with Ama Koffi, general secretary of the Togolese Youth Organization [JRPT], who was accompanied by some members of his organization's national committee. The discussions concerned the JRPT'S organs as well as the Togolese Government's policy with regard to youth.

The delegation later paid courtesy calls on Koffi Sama, member of the RPT Central Committee and minister of youth, sports and culture; and Kunale Eklo, administrative secretary of the party.

The two men painted for our visitors a gloomy picture of the Togo of the past as well as a bright picture of the Togo of General Eyadema. They also asked the delegation to feel at home in Togo.

UPPER VOLTA

Congolese Minister Meets Sankara, Gives Interview

AB120846 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] Last night Comrade Thomas Sankara received Comrade Marius Mouambenga, the Congolese minister of agriculture and livestock, who was introduced to the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution by Comrade Seydou Traore, minister of rural development. We invite you to lsiten to an interview with the Congolese minister after the audience. He told Pascal Tiessouma the purpose of his talks with the head of state and then answered a few questions:

[Begin recording] [Mouambenga] I was received by Comrade President Sankara in my capacity as current chairman of the Inter-African Committee for Hydraulic Studies. I briefed him on the activities of the committee after handing him a message from his counterpart, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

[Tiessouma] Mr Minister, we are now going to discuss diplomatic matters. We know the Congo is the hub of African diplomacy, particularly with respect to the Chadian problem. We know that Brazzaville has offered to host a meeting of the parties involved. Do you think that these fresh efforts by Congolese diplomacy will yield fruit?

[Mouambenga] Well, I think that the Congolese position has always been that the Chadian problem is primarily the business of the Chadians themselves. As an African country, however, the Congo has been contributing to efforts aimed at promoting negotiations between the opposing brothers with a view to reaching an agreement. In fact, everything depends on them. The Congo has been making its contribution; it has been playing a mediating role; it has been serving as a host country; it has beenmaking available every means at its disposal to the Chadians to help them solve their problem, because it is primarily their problem.

[Tiessouma] When do you expect the roundtable talks to begin?
[Mouambenga] Now listen, I do not know.
[Tiessouma]Still concerning Chad, we know that Libya's Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi has suggested the third man solution, and France does not seem unhappy about the idea. What is Congo's stand on this point?

[Mouambenga] Well, Congo... In the first place, Congo does not need to express an opinion on this point because it is Libya's position as you said yourself. As I said earlier, I believe that for Congo, Chadians must be allowed to solve their problem themselves. Any other dealings only make the situation more complex. This has always been our position. Our foreign minister made it clear. Our head of state also expressed it. I think we stick to our position. [end recording]

Angolan Envoy Delivers Dos Santos Message

AB121321 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution this morning received the resident Angolan ambassador to our country.His Excellency, Armindo Vieira, delivered a message from President Eduardo dos Santos to the head of state. At the end of the audience, the Angolan diplomat told the press that the message concerned the prevailing situation in Angola and South Africa after the recent talks between South African and Angolan authorities.

ANGOLA

Portuguese Citizen Testifies in Diamond Trial

MB140936 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] The People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Luanda continued yesterday with the trial of the 124 individuals accused of illegal diamond trafficking and foreign currency smuggling. Defendant (Luis Antonio Farroupilha Guides), accused of illegal activities against the Angolan economy and the corruption of employees in the Internal Trade Ministry to get import licenses, ended his statement yesterday.

Also yesterday defendant (Antonio de Oliveira Borges), alias (Toni Coles), appeared in the tribunal, was accused of having purchased several diamond consignments, and having sold a diamond for $14,000 to (Zeca Siberia), another defendant in this trial. (Toni Coles), a Portuguese national, denied the accusations and said he had no involvement in the diamond dealings, despite special relations with people linked to smuggling activities. However, defendants such as the Angolan Airlines pilot, (Daniel Sebastiao), confirmed on a court request, the participation of (Toni Coles) in the criminal diamond trafficking. The People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Luanda will resume the trial on Monday at 0900.

UK's Leahy Speaks on Release of Prisoners

MB141645 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 13 May 84

[Statement by Sir John Leahy in a stadium at UNITA headquarters in Jamba, Angola, on 12 May — recorded by Cliff Saunders and presented on the "Top Level" program]

[Text] I would like to say how happy I am to be taking home my fellow citizens with me tomorrow. [applause] What I mean to say next is that my happiness is nothing compared with theirs. After such a long wait and all they have been through, it must be very good to be going home. I am also very relieved to find them in such good shape. I think this is a reflection of the good way they have been treated. [applause] And they told me today that on the way down from Cafunfo in that long march that they had, your soldiers did everything they could to make them as comfortable as possible in the difficult circumstances. [applause]

I want you to know we are grateful, Dr Savimbi, because right at the beginning of our talks today you said to me that the decision had already been taken and was firm and that we were not there to bargain over the release of these British people and although [words indistinct] on some of the subjects that we discussed was not quite the same, you did not change your mind and I am grateful for that. We covered quite a wide range of subjects and although as I said we obviously did not agree about everything, we found that there was a certain meeting of minds on quite a few subjects. It remains for me to thank you and your colleagues for the warmth of your welcome to me and your other British guests. [applause]

We have seen some remarkable spectacles today and some splendid entertainment. I had always heard, Dr Savimbi, about your great qualities of leadership and about your colorful style.

Fourth Military Council Discusses Huambo, Bie

MB140900 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The 4th Regional Military Council recently examined the political, military, and socioeconomic situation in its area of action during a meeting presided over by Colonel Joao Ernesto dos Santos Liberdade. The Regional Military Council decided on measures aimed at ending all bandit activity carried out by UNITA, and hailed the fighters of the regional defense and security forces for the bravery and heroism they demonstrated during operations aimed at disrupting the UNITA puppet gangsters. The 4th Regional Military Council, which covers the povinces of Huambo and Bie, also examined the degree to which the decisions drawn up during the previous session have been implemented, and urged the defense, security, and governmental organizations to implement them in full. The council approved a program of activities until its next session.

Conditions for Cuban Withdrawal Reiterated

MB130845 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] In a press communique distributed yesterday by our embassy in Gabon, the People's Republic of Angola reiterates its position concerning the implementation of the South African troop disengagement from the national territory. This is the first step toward the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 for the independence of Namibia. The withdrawal of the forces of the South African invading army from our country gives the Pretoria Government the opportunity to show that, like the other nations in the region, it truly aspires for peace and will follow this line without clashing with the political positions of neighboring states on the basis of respect for the national sovereignty of each country.

The People's Republic of Angola honors and will continue to honor the arrangements of the Lusaka agreement. Now it is the turn of the South African Government to show its willingness to honor the agreement, and that the peace process now running its course will definitely lead to Namibia's independence through the implementation of Resolution 435.

Within this spirit, the communique continues, the positions leading to the implementation of the independence process for Namibia are not, and will never be compromised by the presence of the Cuban internationalists in our country, since the People's Republic of Angola has shown South Africa and the world that the Cuban troops came to our country on an appeal from the Angolan people and government in the wake of an invasion of the national territory by two foreign armies. In this context, their presence in Angola can not be used as a false pretext for the refusal to implement Resolution 435, nor does it constitute a threat to the national sovereignty of states neighboring the People's Republic of Angola.

The presence of the Cuban troops is needed to guarantee our own security regarding the defense of the motherland against the threats of persistent aggression, which will only stop when the South African troops withdraw from Namibia to beyond the Orange River.

This was stated in a press communique released yesterday morning at our embassy in Libreville. It reiterated that the Cuban internationalist forces will only withdraw from Angola when the conditions specified in the joint declaration signed by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Commander Fidel Castro, secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, on 19 March, are met. The conditions are:

1. Unilateral withdrawal of South African troops from the territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

2. Integral implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435/78.

3. A total end to attacks on Angola from South Africa with the support of the United States and its allies.

4. Angola also considers the cessation of aid of any kind from the South African regime to the counterrevolutionary and armed bands, which are trained and placed at our borders by the South Africans, to be an essential condition.

FAPLA Action in Huambo Province Reported

MB140815 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The Angolan Armed Forces are continuing to deal hard blows to the puppets on the payroll of imperialism, who are attempting to destabilize our revolution by inflicting death, terror, and grief on the public.

The day before yesterday in Huambo Province, the glorious FAPLA put out of action 32 counterrevolutionaries of the notorious UNITA group. The action, which took place in one of Huambo's provincial municipalities, also led to the seizing of 15G-3s, 5 AKMs, 1 RPG-7, and enormous quantities of ammunition.

Dos Santos Sends Message to Gabon Leader

MB141737 Luanda ANGOP in English 1215 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Luanda, May 14 (ANGOP) — A message of the president of the MPLA-Gabon Party, and of the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to his Gabonese counterpart, Bernard Vungo [as received] was handed over Saturday in Libreville by the Angolan ambassador accredited in Gabon, Ndombele Bernard.

The Angolan ambassador who called to the Gabonese head of state, exchanged views with his interlocutor on the bilateral relations between Angola and Gabon and the main problems of the southern Africa.

Ndombele Bernardo reaffirmed during the audience the commitment of the Angolan authorities in honour the agreement signed on last 16th February between Angola and South Africa in Lusaka (Zambia) relating to the withdrawal of the South African troops from Angola.

BOTSWANA

Masire Says RSA Using Pressure To Force Pact

MB111218 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, yesterday told the American Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Botswana was under pressure from South Africa to sign an agreement similar to the Nkomati Accord. Dr Masire said he found such a proposal illogical and unreasonable in that, unlike Mozambique, there are no hostilities between Botswana and South Africa.

The president said such an agreement will provide South Africa with a pretext to invade Botswana, thus endangering our hard-won independence. President Masire told the Foreign Relations Committee that Botswana had repeatedly told the international community and South Africa herself,that she will not be used as a launching pad against her neighbors.

Dr Masire said South Africa was now threatening to make conditions difficult at border posts between the two countries. South Africa had also threatened to deploy its powerful Army along their common border. Nonetheless, the president says that Botswana will not sign any such treaty, regardless of the pressures.

Dr Masire, however, expressed hope that the Nkomati Accord will bring peace to its parties. He said he hoped that the cease-fire between South Africa and Angola will lead to the implementation of Resolution 435.

The chairman of the Africa Committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Howard Wolpe, had earlier said that Botswana had a history of stability and political moderation. He said Botswana had been an influential member of the frontline states.

Addressing himself to the economy, Mr Wolpe said that Botswana had sought prudent measures tailored to its specific needs and national growth. Mr Wolpe praised Botswana for what he described as a comprehensive and sophisticated food security scheme designed to avoid widespread malnutrition and starvation.

Our correspondent reported that, after addressing the committee, the president attended a luncheon hosted in his honor by the editorial staff of *THE WASHINGTON POST*.

He is scheduled to meet the secretary general of the United Nations today. He will also visit the black suburb of Harlem in New York. The president and his delegation are expected to leave the United States on Sunday.

LESOTHO

LLA Members Ask Foreign Minister for Pardon

MB141500 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Several members of the Lesotho Liberation Army [LLA] have asked Lesotho's minister of foreign affairs, Mr E.R. Sekhonyana, to allow them to return home. They are said to have been disillusioned with the leadership of self-exiled BCP [Basotho Congress Party] leader, Mr Ntsu Mokhetle.

The members claim they have been staying with rangers on the Maluti Mountains in Qua Qua since their return from several communist countries where they received military training. They say they left Lesotho between 1970 and 1973 and received training in Libya, Russia, and North Korea. They returned to South Africa in 1979 and became active in Lesotho.

The group claimed they defected from the LLA because they now realize that Chief Leabua Jonathan, the prime minister, has defeated the BCP and the LLA. The LLA men claim that Lesotho mine workers working in South Africa contributed 10 rands a month as members. They questioned where the money was going. They claim they are starving and receive only 10 rands every other week from the organization.

Jonathan Urges Peace, Love, Votes at Rally

MB140905 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The prime minister, the right honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, has appealed to Basotho to preserve peace, have the spirit for reconciliation, and to love one another. The prime minister made the appeal at a rally at Khohlontso in the district of Thabatseka yesterday.

Dr Jonathan reminded the people that the Basotho nation was founded on the principles of love and peace by King Moshoeshoe I. He said that a united nation could not be infiltrated by enemies. He said that Lesotho was willing to have peaceful relations with any country of the world so long as sovereignty and territorial integrity of either country is respected.

On development projects carried out by the government for people of that area, the prime minister advised that it was up to the people themselves to cherish and treasure these projects, as they are meant for them. Dr Jonathan said he was happy to note that he had fulfilled his promises to the nation, and in like manner he would like to see every Basotho vote for the Basotho National Party in the coming elections. At Khohlontso, the prime minister also officially opened a DANIDA-financed clinic, a cooperative store, and a credit union bank.

MOZAMBIQUE

Government Introduces Foreign Exchange Incentives

MB140941 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Mozambican Government has introduced a new incentive for businesses as part of an effort to increase the country's foreign exchange earnings. A new measure is to be put into effect gradually as from today: Foreign exchange earning companies will directly receive a percentage of their hard currency profits.

Exporters will be allowed to bank between 5 and 20 percent of their own foreign currency profits to be used for improving their economic performance. The allocations will be controlled by individual contracts between the exporting company and the minister of foreign trade and the Bank of Mozambique.

Foreign Trade Minister Joaquim de Carvalho and Bank Governor Prakash Ratiral explained the new system to private businessmen and managers of state firms at a meeting in the Chamber of Commerce in Maputo. The businessmen were told that the government wanted to increase the autonomy of companies, cut down on bureaucratic delays, and allow businesses to operate according to objective economic laws.

Minister Carvalho said a whole series of other measures would be introduced with the aim of increasing exports and foreign exchange earnings, in line with recent decisions of the Frelimo Party Central Committee. He thanked the businessmen who had helped draw up the new system and asked all members of the Chamber of Commerce to keep them informed of the day-to-day problems affecting their companies.

Machel Announces Plans for Eliminating 'Bandits'

MB130945 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] In a meeting held yesterday with the grassroots structures of Maputo, President Samora Machel announced that the Maputo residents were going to receive more weapons to annihilate the armed bandits.

During the meeting, the supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution said that centers for military training of workers and population in general would be created. These measures to answer people's concerns, which are always noted by the city grassroot structures, regarding the vigilance and defense of Maputo organizations, are aimed at making it virtually impossible for armed bandits to infiltrate the city.

Field Marshal Samora Machel also announced that a city commander and a people's militia commander had been appointed. In the meeting with the Maputo City grassroot structures, the Mozambican head of state once again reiterated that the elimination of the armed bandits is the main task to ensure that produce arrives in the cities and that tranquility reigns. He said that, at this moment, work is being done in cooperation with

defense and security forces for the defense of the city and respect for the legal system.

38 'Bandits' Killed in Inhambane Province Actions

MB140857 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0605 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] In recent combat in Inhambane Province, our forces killed 38 armed bandits, captured 2, and seized war materiel. The materiel included mortar shells, bazooka rockets, grenades, AKM weapons, and knapsacks, as well as antitank mines. In these operations 28 civilians, who were held prisoner, were released.

In Manica and Zambezia Provinces in the Mandie area, and between Alto Molocue and Alto Ligonha respectively, our forces attacked and occupied a bandit base and caused many enemy casualties. In several clashes in Manica, 19 bandits were killed and several AKM and FN weapons were seized.

Cadets of the Nampula Military Academy attacked and destroyed a base in the Morrumbala District, causing many casualties to the bandits and capturing a quantity of war materiel. In Maputo Province, seven armed bandits were captured in the (Madeda) area while two bandits were killed, and five women were released in the Santiago plantations in Magude area.

NAMIBIA

Vambo Man Killed in Landmine Explosion

MB141542 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] A Vambo man has been killed in landmine explosion near Ruacana in the northwestern part of Ovambo. Announcing this, the acting secretary of the Ovambo Administration, Mr (Frans Viljoen), said the man died when his horse triggered the mine. His name has not yet been released.

SWAPO Comments on Failure of Lusaka Talks

MB141947 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 14 May 84

[Station Commentary: "Assessment of the Lusaka Talks — the Cause of Failure"]

[Text] The Lusaka talks on the future of Namibia have once again ended in a failure. The well-publicized Lusaka talks started in the Zambian capital of Lusaka on Friday, 11 May. After the opening speech by the Zambian president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, the host as well as the chairman of the meeting, the first session went into session with difficulty, with Pretoria-created Multiparty Conference [MPC] and the South African delegation demanding that the SWAPO delegation included members of allied parties from Namibia and that they must be dropped. [sentence as heard] These parties were the Damara Council of Justus Garoeb, the SWANU-Progressives of Gerson Veii, Namibian Independence Party of Kenneth (?Abrahams), the Namibian Christian Democratic Party of Hans Rohr, and the Mbanderu Council of Chief Manjuku II, as well as the Namibian Council of Churches.

It is very clear, and it was already clear to us, that both the South African delegations, including their puppets of the MPC, came to the Lusaka conference with different objectives than to agree to the independence formula for Namibia. South Africa, through its colonial governor for Namibia, Willie van Niekerk, continued to link Namibia's independence with extraneous issues like the presence of the internationalist forces of Cuba in Angola; and the puppets of the MPC, echoing from their masters' claims, came out with issues such as the so-called impartiality, and demanded to be recognized by SWAPO, and many other irrelevant issues.

When the history is written one day, the failure of the Lusaka talks on Namibia will always be regarded as a result of Pretoria's unwillingness, and the puppets' intransigence and lack of political goodwill and statemanship, which SWAPO has shown — first in Geneva, and recently in Lusaka during these talks. SWAPO remains ready to talk to Pretoria to end South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, if South Africa is ready to do so. In the absence of this, the struggle for liberation will continue.

Ciskei Leader Scores MP for Statements

MB121330 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Ciskei President Lennox Sebe has launched an attack on PFP [Progressive Federal Party] MP Helen Suzman. Referring to Suzman's statements on a recent visit to the territory, Sebe has taken issue on a number of points. He said one point she made was that in February, 27 people were in detention in Ciskei. Sebe has said there were in fact only nine. The president has also defended Ciskei police, who Suzman criticized for their conduct during the bus boycotts.

SOUTH AFRICA

More Details on Durban Attack Announced

MB141649 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] In South African coastal city of Durban, the death toll after a 4-hour gun battle between police and four men suspected of launching a rocket attack on Mobil Oil refinery has risen to seven. The four suspected terrorists, three black men and a man of mixed race, were killed in a shootout last night. Later, the charred remains of three casual laborers were found in a warehouse which caught alight during the exchange of fire. A policeman was wounded on the head during the clash with a suspected terrorist and another suffered light injuries, when a hand grenade was hurled at the road block. Both are said to be in satisfactory condition. A fire which resulted from rocket attack on the oil refinery was soon put out and caused minor damage.

Radio South Africa staff report that the shootout occurred after a Durban municipal police patrol had received a description of the vehicle thought to have been used in the rocket attack. The

vehicle was spotted almost immediately and two of its tires and windscreen were riddled with bullets during the subsequent high speed chase. The car was forced to stop in a Durban suburb and the four armed occupants jumped out and sought refuge in a construction site. The four died in the ensuing shootout.

ANC Claims Responsibility

MB141654 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The ANC has claimed responsibility for two separate attacks by its military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, inside South Africa. A statement issued in Addis Ababa today said the first operation was against the Pretoria regime's department of internal affairs and the office of the railway police in Durban, in which extensive damage was caused. The second operation was an attack on the Mobil oil installation in Durban, which caused serious damage, and the wounding of two members of the regime's police. The statement said the two operations are part of the ANC's program for the intensification of the armed struggle.

Minister Confirms Casualties

MB150700 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has said in Cape Town that so far it has not been possible to establish whether the four people who were shot dead by police after the attack on an oil refinery in Durban were ANC terrorists, but that he is certain that the attack was the work of the ANC. Mr Le Grange said in a statement on the incident that the possibility was being investigated that the rocket attack was linked to the bomb explosion in Durban some weeks ago, and to the explosion in the Trust Bank Building in the city last weekend. He said that in the latest incident police had confiscated a quantity of Soviet-made weaponry.

Later, in Addis Ababa, the ANC accepted responsibility for the rocket attack and for the bomb explosion in the Trust Bank Building in Durban over the weekend. Mr Le Grange confirmed in his statement that seven people had been killed in the incident on Sunday night. They were four suspected terrorists who had been shot dead and three people who had been burned to death when a paint shed caught fire during the shootout.

The owner of the warehouse, Mr Mohamed Joosub, said two of the people who died in the fire were causal workers who had been sleeping in the warehouse for some time with his permission. They have been identified as Mr (Eric Dube), and Mr (Clement Dlamini), both of Umlazi. The third person, a woman, has not been identified. Constable Andries Nel, who was shot in the face, is in a satisfactory condition in the Addington Hospital. A hospital spokesman said Constable Nel had been extremely lucky as the bullet had passed through his cheek and exited below his ear without touching any bone. Sergeant Frederick Hilder of the Police Reaction Unit has suffered minor shrapnel wounds was treated and discharged. The other two policemen were slightly injured when a bullet struck the windscreen on their car. They were discharged from hospital after treatment. The police dog, Rover, was critically injured. Three blacks were injured in the crossfire. They were two night watchmen and a woman. The night watchmen were allowed to go home after treatment but the woman was admitted to hospital with a broken arm. She was apparently hit by a ricocheting bullet.

Van Niekerk Briefs Botha on Lusaka Talks

MB141743 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1720 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] Cape Town, May 14, SAPA — The S.W.A/Namibian administrator general, Dr Willie Van Niekerk, today briefed the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, on the Lusaka summit conference between SWAPO and the Multi-Party Conference at the weekend, the Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed.

However, the minister, Mr Pik Botha, said he did not consider it desirable to comment on the talks, in Cape Town, between Dr Van Niekerk and the prime minister.

Botha Speaks at Meeting for Swazi Delegation

MB111428 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says it should be evident from recent developments in southern Africa that South Africa is seeking a positive and realistic relationship with its neighbors. Mr Botha was speaking at a meeting between a South African delegation headed by himself and a Swazi delegation led by the Swazi prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, in Cape Town this morning. Mr Botha said unstable economies lead to unstable governments. Instability was contagious, and a weak and confused region attracted the unwelcome attention of outsiders.

During his speech, Mr Botha also praised the Swazi Government for the role it had played in bringing stability to southern Africa. Swaziland had made its facilities available for talks between South Africa and Mozambique in December last year. These talks had laid the foundation for further meetings, which had led to the signing of the Accord of Nkomati between South Africa and Mozambique in March this year. The signing of the accord had demonstrated to the international community that there was a serious drive for cooperation among the peoples of southern Africa. Mr Botha said it showed African countries had the capacity to solve their problems among themselves without outside interference.

Journalist Claims Plot To Kill ANC Leader Tambo

MB131245 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] There is a plot to kill ANC leader Oliver Tambo. That is the claim by top South African journalist Percy Qoboza. Reporting from Lusaka for a Johannesburg Sunday newspaper, Zoboza says Tambo refused to visit Swaziland this week because of fears of being assassinated or kidnapped. Qoboza says the startling

allegation was made when he met Tambo and other senior officials who are in Lusaka for talks with Zambian President Keenth Kaunda over the plummeting relations between the ANC and the Swazi Government.

The jounalist adds it is claimed the plot had been hatched with the full knowledge of the Swazi Government. There is no response from Swazi authorities to the report.

Need To Withdraw Cubans Reiterated

MB141821 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 May 84

[Johan Steyn Commentary: "Southern Africa and Central America"]

[Text] Southern Africa and Central America at present have a decisive strategic factor in common: In both these regions in the world, there is intense opposition to attempts by the Soviet Union to consolidate and expand its influence by way of Cuban surrogate forces.

The parallel between the situation in the two regions in respect of the Soviet Union's use of surrogate forces and subversion have been alluded to by both President Reagan of the United States, and South Africa's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha.

Mr Reagan said in a recent national television broadcast that without additional American support, El Salvador would not survive the Cuban-backed onslaught. Chaos and anarchy would then be brought to the doorstep of the United States.

In parliament last week, Mr Botha said that the Cuban presence in Angola was not only inhibiting the resolution of that country's internal problems or independence for South-West Africa, but posed a threat for the security of the entire subcontinent and ultimately to the security of South Africa itself.

With South Africa's insistence that the Cubans be removed from Angola, it is clear that it is not just a matter of rhetoric. Mr Botha said that while South Africa was confident that it would reach mutually beneficial agreements with its neighbors, he did not believe it would be able to do so with Soviet-dominated regimes.

Because of its experience with Cuban forces in Central America, the Reagan administration from the start has shown appreciation of South Africa's view point. In fact, it has repeatedly and unequivocally stated that the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola is essential to achieving South-West African independence as well as creating long- term prospects for peace in Southern Africa.

This does not mean of course that South Africa must rely on the United States to get rid of the Cubans. As Professor Piet Kopper of the Rand Afrikaans University says in a recent article: South Africa realizes America's limited abilities in the subcontinent, also the changeability of American foreign policy under various administrations.

Commentary Hails Lusaka Conference on Namibia

MB140800 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] A turning point in the constitutional history of South-West Africa has been reached at the Lusaka conference of the territory's political parties. Even the extraordinary length of the conference reflected the extent of the adaptations that have had to be made in response to the realignment of the forces that are shaping the future of South-West Africa, and SWAPO has finally had to face up to the demands of democratic politics. It has done so hesitantly, ambiguously, and under compulsion. But for SWAPO, indeed for all the political parties and for South-West Africa itself, the die is cast.

That the meeting lasted as long as it did and achieved the measure of agreement that eventually emerged, was almost entirely due to the determination of the Zambian hosts that it should not break up in yet another bout of recriminations and a return to the political and military status quo.

In that determination, President Kenneth Kaunda represented leaders throughout Southern Africa for whom the status quo has become intolerable and a new beginning has become imperative.

For all of southern Africa, the regional peace initiatives launched a few months ago present the opportunity to create a new pattern of international relations that will improve economic and political prospects immeasurably. Such a dispensation requires, in the first place, a substitution of cooperation for confrontation, a desire to settle differences through negotiation, and rejection of any action that would undermine the security of a member state. It is in that spirit that Botswana has acted militarily against SWAPO insurgency, and Angola agreed to clear its southern territory of SWAPO bases. But SWAPO has not only had its terrorist options narrowed — it is now also the object of a diplomatic exercise designed to bring about what South Africa has been demanding all along: a commitment by all parties in South-West Africa to abide by the rules of democratic political development towards independence.

The South African Government has made it clear that it wishes South-West Africa to become independent, and that it is for the political parties of the territory to determine how that goal must be reached. The only condition is that the outcome should reflect the demòcratically expressed preferences of the people. It is a condition that SWAPO has until now adamantly refused to meet. It has claimed for itself the sole right to represent the people of South-West Africa and has pressed its claim by refusing to talk to other political parties, and by engaging in a terrorist campaign to further its efforts to take power by force.

The scope for the military dimensions of SWAPO's campaign is being progressively reduced. The achievement of the Lusaka conference lies in its forcing SWAPO to join in party talks to enter the political arena.

SWAZILAND

Swazi Delegation Returns After Talks in Cape Town

MB121240 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] An extensive range of subjects have been discussed between South Africa and Swaziland over the past 2 days. In a joint statement released this morning, the two governments said their talks in Cape Town included discussions on finance, commerce, mineral affairs, natural resources, energy, agriculture, labor, and security. It was agreed that there was scope for increased cooperation in these areas between the two countries. Meetings at ministerial and official levels are to be arranged in the future to take these matters further. The Swazi delegation, which included the Swazi prime minister, three members of the Supreme Council, and a number of cabinet ministers, left Cape Town for Swaziland this morning. Included in the South African delegation that met with the Swazis was the South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

Trade Envoy Appointed

MB130740 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] The Swazi delegation, led by the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, to the Republic of South Africa returned home yesterday afternoon. Addressing the press at Matsapa Airport, the prime minister said the talks between his delegation and the South African authorities were successful and covered a number of subjects leading to peace in southern Africa. The prime minister and his delegation were met at the airport by cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, and top government officials.

Meanwhile, trade missions between South Africa and Swaziland have been officially established. This came to light when the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, announced the appointment of Mr Sam (Stevan) foreign affairs deputy director for Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland desk, to be South Africa's official representative to Mbabane at trade mission level. The announcement was made on Friday night at a dinner party held in Stellenbosch, hosted by the prime minister, P.W. Botha, and he said Mr (Stevan) would serve the Swazi nation, and that he must be taught the Swazi way of life as he, Mr Botha, was taught by the late King Sobhuza II.

Commenting on the present political climate in Southern Africa, notably Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, and South Africa, Mr Botha said such countries have just emerged from hours of darkness, suffered in the wake of floods, drought, and political mistrust, and added that they are now shining. He recalled how King Sobhuza II used to envisage the coming of the light, stressing that the Swazi delegation was part of the light predicted by King Sobhuza II.

The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, welcomes the appointment of Mr Sam (Stevan) to represent South Africa in Swaziland, and also thanks the South African Government for having received the delegation cordially. Prince Bhekimpi acknowledged that King Sobhuza had emphasized that it was essential for people to get together to discuss in the manner that the Swazi delegation held discussions with South Africans. On relations between the two countries, Prince Bhekimpi recalled that historical facts reveal that Swaziland and South Africa were friends long before President Paul Kruger surfaced in South African politics. He said it had been due to the observation of that friendship that Swaziland never waged a war against the white settlers in Southern Africa.

Swazi Premier Hails Relations With South Africa

MB112009 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in English 1815 GMT May 84

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has told his South African counterpart, Mr P.W. Botha, in Cape Town that strong neighborly bonds with South Africa were more important than its relations with friends further afield.

Prince Bhekimpi, who is heading a high-powered delegation compromising members of the Supreme Council of State, cabinet ministers, and top civil servants, is reported to have spoken briefly at the opening of talks in Cape Town today with Mr Botha and members of Mr Botha's cabinet.

Prince Bhekimpi said the fact that Swaziland was a member of the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement, should not blind our eyes to our relations with our neighbors such as South Africa. He continued: : We in Swaziland believe that, whether yellow, white, red, or black, we will have cordial relations with our neighbors. Prince Bheimpi said that the peace agreements between South Africa and Mozambique had realized the faith the late King Sobhuza II had often expressed that Swaziland's neighbors would beat their guns into plow shares.

The prime minister said that Mr Botha had set a good tone for this inanugural meeting of the leaders of the two countries to discuss matters of mutual concern and importance. He said Mr Botha had rightly stated that the peace initiative in Southern Africa was initiated by the late King Sobhuza II. He said that in order for peace and stability to prevail, all countries of this region should sit down at a roundtable and discuss matters which will bring peace and tranquillity in southern Africa.

He went on: It is true there are many matters of concern to all of us in this region. Today we shall be able to solve problems and reach an understanding on some of these matters.

The prime minister, who said he was aware of the current dialogue with Angola and other countries in the region, expressed the hope that these talks would soon lead to the independence of Namibia. He added that the Kingdom of Swaziland never attempted to interfere in the good relations that had long existed between South Africa and Swaziland.

In the same spirit, he said, he hoped and prayed that our two countries would uphold the understanding they reached before their 1982 peace and security agreement.

Prince Behkimpi said the Queen Regent had charged him with a royal message to convey to the government and people of South Africa, assuring Mr Botha and his government that she was following in the footsteps of the late King Sobhuza, and was looking forward to strengthening the relations established during his lifetime.

ZAMBIA

Delegations Return to Windhoek Following Talks

MB141254 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] The administrator general for Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, who cochaired the Namibian independence talks, which ended in deadlock last night, has returned to Windhoek. The leaders of the Multiparty Conference representing the six internal political parties in Namibia have also left for home.

President Kaunda told a news conference last night in Lusaka after the talks that one of the major areas of difference was the linkage of Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The president was, however, quick to point out that, although the main objective was not achieved, the talks had succeeded in identifying the views of the participating groups on the various issues affecting the decolonization process of the former German colony.

Lusaka Urban Party Committees Dissolved

MB141222 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] It has been announced that all party committees at places of work in Lusaka urban area have been dissolved with immediate effect. A spokesman in the office of the district governor said elections for the new office bearer will be held tomorrow. The spokesman did not give any reason for the dissolution of the party committees.

ZAIRE

Guinean Delegation Expected To Arrive in Kinshasa

AB121217 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1105 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 11 May (AZAP) — A Guinean military committee delegation is expected soon in Kinshasa, Guinean Charge d'Affaires Mohamed Issiaga announced on Friday following a courtesy call he had just paid to Citizen Nyiwa Mobutu, secretary of state for foreign affairs.

Mr Issiaga specified that he was mandated by the Guinean prime minister to announce the visit of the delegation to the Executive Council.

During the visit, the delegation will reaffirm Guinea's determination to cooperate with Zaire as in the past. He further underlined the particularly close relations that existed between Marshal Mobutu and the late President Sekou Toure.

The Guinean charge d'affaires also said that he and the secretary of state spoke about the latter's visit to Conakry in connection with President Sekou Toure's funeral.

ZIMBABWE

Banana Says People Support National Development

MB111039 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The president, Comrade Canaan Banana, said the majority of people in Zimbabwe are rallying behind the government in its task of national development. Addressing local foreign exhibitors at a reception given in their honor at the Bulawayo State House last night, Comrade Banana said it is important that every Zimbabwean be a positive force for national unity and progress. He said the government is committed to the welfare of all its people regardless of race, tribe, religious affiliation, or status in society.

Comrade Banana thanked the local foreign exhibitors for making the trade fair a success despite the drought and the world recession. The president said the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair has become a unifying force in fostering trade and good human relations.

Also attending the reception were the minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Richard Hove, the governors of Matabeland North and South provinces, Comrades Daniel Ngwenya and Mark Dube, the mayor of Bulawayo, Councillor (Henry Njonwa), and several government and civil officials.